CONTEMPLATIONS
ON THE
Life & Glory
OF
Holy Mary,
THE
MOTHER of *JESUS*.
WITH
A Daily Office, agreeing to each Mystery thereof.

MARY, of whom was Born JESUS,
Matth. *Cap.* I. *Verſ.* 16.

By *J. C.* D. D. *r*

PARIS, Anno Domini, 1685.
Permiſſu Superiorum.

BIBLIOTECA
ROMA

TO HER

Moſt Excellent Majeſty,

Catherine,

OF

England, Scotland, France, & Ireland,

Queen Dowager.

Madam!

AUthority *and* Example *have that Tranſcendent Majeſty and Awfulneſs, within the whole* Empire *of Man's Soul, that they alone ſeem to give* Life *and* Vigour *to all its Affections and Motions.*

For Authority, *animated by the Influences of Divine and Human* Laws, *and armed with the Sword of coercive* Juſtice, *quickens* Servile Fear *to a ſteady obſervance of Chriſtian and Civil* Duties; *As it curbs the* Inſolent, *and reſtrains* Seditious Spirits, *from violating the Sacred boundaries of* Church *and* State: *ſo doth it ſtir up the* Sluggiſh *and* Tepid, *to an exact Obedience to the* Tribunals *and* Edicts *of both.*

But Illuſtrious and raviſhing Example, *beautified with the rich Atchievments and Charms of* Virtue, *inſenſibly penetrating, and actuating the Soul, ſo powerfully inſpires* Generous Love, *that it ſweetly forceth all her* Paſſions, *eagerly to purſue whatſoever is Laudible, and* Magnificent.

Kings, Madam, *who are God's Anointed, and his Vicegerents in the Government of this Viſible World, are the moſt noble* Images *of his Majeſty,*

and

and Miniſters *of his Imperial* Authority; *and being refined, thro' the rich* Channels *of the* Royal Blood *of their Wiſe and Victorious* Anceſtors, *are by God's Appointment, and Aſſiſtance, duly fitted, to the Adminiſtration of* Juſtice *and* Clemency, *towards their* People.

But Chriſtian Queens, *whoſe Lives are inſpired with the ſublime* Lights, *and* Flames *of Vertue and Holineſs, according to that eminent Rank of* Honour, *they poſſeſs amongſt Mortals, are the* Repreſentatives *of the* Mother *of* JESUS; *being ſingularly adorned, with the choice Characters of her* Exemplar *and* Imitable *Perfections; while by their* Prodigies *of Piety, amidſt the* Grandeurs *and* Delights *of their Courts, they amaze the ſenſual World, with the brightneſs of their* Divine Morals, *and imperiouſly raviſh the* Hearts *of their admiring* Courtiers, *to an holy Emulation of their Tranſcendent and* Illuſtrious Vertues.

Madam, *My deſign in theſe* Contemplations, *is, To Illuſtrate ſome choice* Myſteries *of the Stupendious* Life *and* Glory *of* Holy Mary, *the* Mother *of* JESUS, Empreſs *of* Seraphims, *and* Mirrour *of* Queens *and* High-Born Ladies; *and in* Them, *to preſent Your* Sacred Majeſty, *with the moſt Sublime, and moſt exact* Original *of* Practical *Perfection, which the* Omnipotency *of* God *ever drew, in the Soul of a* Pure Creature. *Whence it will be no hard Task, To* Demonſtrate *what profound Veneration and Obſervance, A* Chriſtian, *on this* Title, *owes to a Perſon of her* Vaſt Magnitude, *thro'* God's *Eternal* Predeſtination, *ſo eminently Conſpicuous in the Wonders of her Stupendious* Life *and* Glory; *or, To* Convince *the World, by what Divine Compaſs,* Your Majeſty *ſteers Your* Royal Heart, *in all Your Heavenly* Meditations, *as a* Diſciple *in the* School *of* JESUS; *or,*

To

To Diſcover *to the moſt Ambitious, how Magnificent and Attractive,* Vertue *is, when its moſt Secret* Myſteries *are decypher'd, and made eaſie to our Imitation, by ſuch* Royal Examples.

But, Madam, *However Religious this* Deſign *be, in* Right *of a* Mother *of ſuch a* Son, *who by Innumerable* Titles, *claims the utmoſt Duty, of every* Chriſtian, *as a proper* Homage *to her* Greatneſs; *yet all my Endeavours will be too* Few, *and* Mean, *to equal the* Excellencies *and* Priviledges *of* Holy Mary; *ſince, what ever can be ſaid of her, will be only an* Eſſay, *infinitely too narrow, to fill the* Orbs *of her* Exuberant Sanctity, Grace, *and* Glory; *theſe all, deriving their Immenſe* Streams, *from her unparallel'd and ineffable* Priviledge, *that,* Of Mary, Jeſus was born; [*Matth.* c. 1. v. 16.] *For, hence S.* Gregory, *our* Engliſh Apoſtle, *affirms*

firms, [Lib. 1. *in* Cap. 1. Reg.] *That*, God deſigning to Exalt *Mary*, to the Active Conception of the Eternal Word, raiſed the Trophies of her Merits, above the higheſt Quires of the loſty Seraphims, next beneath the Imperial Throne of the Majeſty of *God* himſelf. *But* Arnold *of* Charters, [Tract. de Laud. Mar.] *advanceth yet further, and tells us*; *That* The Prerogatives of Grace and Glory, of *JESUS* and *MARY*, are not diſtinct Perfections; ariſing from ſeparate Gifts, and Excellencies; but that they are *One*, and the *Same* Attribute; becauſe grounded on the ſame Indiviſible Title, of the Stupendious Correlation, of the *Human Filiation* of *JESUS*, and the *Maternity* of *Holy MARY*. *Thus, tho' upon moſt obliging Inducements, of a Religious Obſervance, and Veneration, due to the* Mother *of* JESUS, *I humbly preſume to explain theſe* My-

Myſteries *of her* Life, *and Immortal* Glory; *yet I do, with trembling, attempt this Great Work, leſt* Searching into the Holies, of ſo great a Majeſty, I be oppreſſed with its Brightneſs and Splendors.

For, as it is not poſſible, for a Mortal Eye to View *the* Depths *and* Streams *of the* Fountain *of Light, and* Wade *thro' its vaſt* Flames *and* Workings; *or that the moſt skilful Pen, ſhould* Deſcribe *the* Amplitude *of Royal* Power *and* Majeſty, Summ *up the* Regalia *or* Prerogatives *of an Abſolute* Monarch, *and* Preſcribe *Bounds to the Thunders of his* Juſtice, *& Overflowings of his* Mercies; *or alſo, for the Tongue of a* Seraphim, *to* explain *to our comprehenſion, the* ſhapes *and* liveries *of the heavenly Spirits, their* Quires *and* Hierarchies; *to* blaſon *the Glories of the* Saints, *and to* expound *the plenty, paſtimes, and language of the divine* Courtiers; *So much*

rather, is it impoſſible, for a pure Creature, *to* unfold *the Immenſe attributes of the Maternity of* Holy Mary, *the Mother of* Jeſus; *which gives unto Her, an* inherent Right, *to all the Perfections, ſo copiouſly, by* Providence, *diſperſed amongſt Creatures here* beneath, *the Stars in the* Firmament, *and the Angels in* Heaven.

'Tis in purſuance of this ineffable Right, Madam, *that the Omnipotent God, did, in* holy Mary, *ſum up all the Excellencies of* Nature *and* Grace, *poſſible, and which may be aſſembled, in the Boſome of* one pure Creature, *whereby ſhe ſhould become, the moſt* abſolute effect *of his* power, *and moſt accompliſhed* Image *of his* Goodneſs; *fit to be offer'd, unto the* Illuſtrious Ladies *of the* Chriſtian *World, as the nobleſt* object *of his* Love, *and the moſt excellent* Model *and* Pattern *of* Perfection. *For ſhould I walk thro' the* vaſt Legions *of the glorious* Saints, *the* tribes

and

and Hierarchies *of the* Angels, *and the delicious* Gardens *and* Springs *of* Grace *and* Vertue; Holy Mary, *becauſe the* Mother *of* Jeſus, *hath the fulneſs of them All.* [Eccli. *c.* 24. *v.* 16.]

Theſe incomparable Excellencies, Madam, *are thoſe rich* Pearls, *which collected forth the Immence* Treaſuries *of* Holineſs, *by God's* Wiſdome *and* Bounty, *are the proper Ornaments of this divine* Mother; *a brief* Character *of which, I here offer to your* Sacred Majeſty, *to the end, that whatever is* magnificent *and* illuſtrious *in the* Mother *of* Jeſus, *may, under the auſpicious* Protection, *of your* Royal Name *and* Examples, *ſerve, to* charm *the World, to an acknowledgment of her* Excellencies, Merits, *and* Glory, *above all the Quires of Saints and Angels*; *may* amplify *that* Veneration, *which is due to* holy Mary, *in right of her ſingular* Relation *to* Jeſus; *and* inflame *the Hearts of all Mortals, but eſpeci-*

ally of Illuſtrious Ladies, *with an Emulation of the Perfections, of their glorious* Queen *and* Patronels.

Nor do I herein, Madam, *vainly invite the* Devotes *of* holy Mary, *to caſt an Eye of Veneration and Reſpect, towards your* ſacred Majeſty; *while, by your powerful* Examples *of* Piety, *I recommend her Vertues, to their* Imitation *and* Practice: *Since the whole* Tenor *of your* Royal Exerciſes, *are moſt vigorous* Inducements, *to perfection, thro' a ſingular obſervance, and Worſhip of* holy Mary, *the* Mother *of* Jeſus. *This hath ever been, the illuſtrious and inſeparable* Character *of your* Royal Progenitors, *the* Kings *and* Queens *of* Portugal; *and eſpecially of that* Victorious & Renowned *Prince*, John *the* Fourth, *Your Majeſties* Royal Father; *who, as he* own'd *his Conqueſts to* holy Mary: *So did he* conſecrate *his* Kingdome, *and Imperial* Crown *and* Scepter, *unto Her; under the Magnificent*

nificent Title, *of her* immaculate Conception. *Thus, by* right *of Blood, and* lineal *Deſcent, This* Devotion *to* holy Mary, *is derived to your* Majeſty; *and by your own moſt excellent* practices, *is raiſed, to a moſt* eminent *degree, above whatever may be claimed by your pious Anceſtors.*

England *too, unto whoſe Royal* Thrones *and* Diadems, *your* Majeſty, *by a propitious* Providence, *hath been happily Eſpouſed, in* Charles the Merciful, *is by an immemorable* Priviledg, *the* proper Dowry of holy Mary, *the Mother of* Jeſus; *It having ever been, the* Hereditary *Endeavours, of the* Catholick Kings *and* Queens *of the* Britiſh Empire, *to propagate the* Glory *and* Veneration *of the Mother of* Jeſus, *thro' their rich and potent* Kingdoms.

That the ſame ancient, *and* coherent Piety, *of theſe moſt renowned* Princes, *towards* holy Mary, *is the* proper Inheri-

heritance *and* Patrimony *of your ſacred Majeſty, is,* Madam, *moſt Conſpicuous, by your pious* Entertainments, *in your publick and private* Oratories, *in Your* Contemplation, *on the amiable and ſtupendious* Priviledges *of the Mother of* Jeſus, *and of the incomparable* Prerogatives *of Grace and Holineſs, engrafted on that rich Stock of* Perfection, *by the gracious hand of* Providence; *which, from Eternity, pre-ordained* Her *to that Incomprehenſible* Dignity. *It is viſible too, in your admirable zeal, in* Solemnizing *the* Feaſts *of* holy Mary, *as ſo many eternal* Monuments *of the ſeveral Myſteries, of her Stupendious Life, and* Teſtimonies *of the fulneſs of her Glory;* eternized *by thoſe eminent Acts of Chriſtian* Piety *and* Worſhip; *and by the whole train of Your* Royal, *and charming* Vertues; *whereby, Your Majeſty, as a moſt* benign Star, *ſhining in the Firmament of the* Engliſh-Catholick

lick Church, *powerfully ſteers the hearts of your noble* Courtiers, *to a commendable* Imitation, *of the moſt* Illuſtrious & practicable Excellencies *of the* Queen *of* Heaven, *rendred more* imitable, *by Your* Royal *and raviſhing* Examples.

So that, Madam, *while I preſent Your* ſacred Majeſty, *with theſe* Contemplations, *on the Myſteries of the* Life, *and* Glory *of the Mother of* Jeſus, *as an* homage, *due to Your* Grandeur *and* Vertues; *I herein ſtrive to imitate the* Miniſters *of* God's holy Altars, *who thereon Offer to God, only* what's His own; *Nothing is more* proper *to God the* Father, *than his* Son Jeſus, *whom they daily* Sacrifice *to Him, in his holy* Temples, *thereby to appeaſe his* Juſtice, *and to propitiate his* Mercy: *Thus alſo, do I here preſume to Offer unto Your ſacred Majeſty, theſe my* Contemplations, *on the Excellencies of the Mother*

ther of Jeſus, *which are already, more* your own, *by Your* Study *and* Practice. *But in Them, my* Ambition *aims, at the Illuſtrating* Vertue, *in its Original; as an* Offering, *ſuitable to Your* Greatneſs *and* Merits; *and incomparably* greater, *than the* Crowns *and* Scepters, *of the moſt lofty and victorious,* Portugal *and* Britiſh Empires; *Thereby to Atteſt, how much I am,*

MADAM,

Your Majeſties

Moſt Humble, moſt Obe-

July 12. 1685. dient, and moſt Faith-

ful Servant,

J. C.

Contemplations on the LIFE and GLORY OF HOLY MARY, THE Mother of *JESUS*.

An Advice to the Reader.

1. THE Enemies of Christian *Faith and Piety*, have ſtill applied their whole Endeavours, to raiſe a Spiritual War againſt *JESUS*, and his divine *Mother*; with deſign to defeat thoſe *Sacred Myſteries*, which through their dignity and acceptableneſs to God, moſt effectually do deſtroy the kingdom & power of Satan, do work Man's inward Holineſs, and promote

his eternal Glory. For, God, through *JESUS*, imparteth to his Church, all *Truth and Grace*; and through *Mary* we have *JESUS*, and all bleſſings of *Faith* and *Love*. Thus did they oppoſe the *Catholick* Doctrine; *Of Chriſt's two Natures, ſubſiſting in One divine Perſon, with their connatural properties of Will and Operation*; *Of his true, real, and ſubſtantial Preſence, in the Sacrifice, and Sacrament of the Altar*; *Of the Benefits, Neceſſity and Efficacy of inward Grace*; *Of outward Sacraments*; *of the viſible Communion of Believers, in the practical Teſts of their Faith, revealed by Chriſt to his Church, in holy Goſpel, and in its primitive Practices*; *according to their true meaning, delivered to Us by his Church-Governours, without Change, thro' all its Ages*; *and of the comfortable preſence of the ſacred Spirit of JESUS*; not only *under the viſible Elements of the Holy Euchariſt, working our inward Sanctification*; but alſo *in our Chief Biſhop, guiding Us in all Truth and Purity*, for the ſecuring our Faith of divine Myſteries, our Worſhip of God, and our practice of Chriſts divine Morals.

2. And as theſe Adverſaries of Chriſtian perfection, rebelling againſt Chriſt's Church, have warred againſt JESUS, and his ſacred Government: ſo have they endeavour'd to ſubdue, and raze, the chiefeſt of His ſpiritual Cities, *Holy Mary, the Mother of JESUS*; by depriving her, of her due Veneration; and Us, of her powerful Mediation at the Throne of JESUS; and by deveſting her of thoſe excellent Prerogatives, which have been, figured in the Law, revealed by

by the Prophets, and delivered to Believers, with their first Christianity, and commended unto Us by the Uniform practice of the Church, thro' all its Ages, as the proper Attributes of *Mary*, by Right of her being the *Mother of* JESUS; without which, she is not duly Qualified for that supereminent Title, if we consider the Amplitude, of the Majesty of JESUS, *as* GOD; of the efficacy of his Mediation, *as Man*; and of the fulness of the Love of JESUS, *as he is the Son of* MARY.

3. Thus some have deposed holy *Mary*, of of her special priviledg, of being the *Mother of God*, that by destroying that sacred foundation, of all her supereminent Perfections, they might make void the whole train of those Graces and Prerogatives, wherewith the Wisdom of God adorned his own glorious City; and the Piety of the Church hath ever owned, as her peculiar Rights and Priviledges: Thence also have they denyed her *Immunity from Sin*, *her perpetual Virginity*, and *her Right to a most eminent degree of servitude, from all Creatures*; thereby to banish from Believers, that special Reverence *of*, Devotion *to*, and Confidence *in*, *Holy Mary*, which was practised by the first Founders of our Christianity, and by their Examples recommended to the Piety of all succeeding Ages, with their *belief In*, and their *Love* and *Obedience To* JESUS, her divine Son.

4. If then we believe *Mary* to be the *Mother of* JESUS, every disciple of JESUS, ought to have a high value of her Dignity, Perfections,

and neerneſs to *JESUS*; in all poſſible prerogatives, of Glory, filial Love, and inclinableneſs to grant her Requeſts for us; Thus, as God dignified her, with the excellency of being the *Mother of JESUS*; ſo hath he therewith created her, the *Queen of Angels, Patroneſs of the Church*, and *Advocate of Sinners*; And therefore did Holy *David* foretel, That *Glorious things ſhould be ſpoken of the City of God*; [*Pſal.* 86.2.] Therefore did the Seraphim, in his Embaſſy from God to Her, proclaim her *full of Grace*, and *with whom God abides*; [*Luc.* 1. 28.] And therefore did this divinely-inſpired and quickned Virgin own, *That God had done great Things for her, ſuitable to the Amplitude of his Power, and the Holineſs of His Name*; [*ib.* 49.] *Great Things* indeed, God having adorned Her, with the Gifts of *Innocency and Grace*, lodg'd in Her, *His only* Son; and entruſted Her, with the Generation, Birth, and Education of *JESUS*, the Heir of Heaven, the Redeemer of Men and Angels; and of Him, by whom all Nations are Bleſt: Therefore is Shee rightly Styled, *The Mother of beautiful Love, of the Knowledge of the divine Myſteries, and of everlaſting Mercies.*

5. Whoever Believes, He is ranſom'd by the Blood of *JESUS*, from the thraldom of Sin, Senſuality and Satan; is quickned in the Laver of *Baptiſm*, with the *Spirit of JESUS*; and is made an *adoptive Child* of Heaven, and its treaſures of Glory, thro' the Grace of *JESUS*; will freely pay an Homage of Love and Fealty, to *Mary*, the divine *Mother of JESUS*; in whoſe Womb

Womb *JESUS* was framed and finiſhed, into the Son of God; from whoſe Veins *JESUS* derived thoſe rich ſtreams of Blood, which became the price of the Saints and Angels; and of whoſe *Fleſh*, was Created that divine Fleſh, which is an Infinite God, the Hoſtage of Sinners, the Food of the Regenerate; and now ſits at the right Hand of God, there to plead for Sinners, and to be the Pleaſure of the Saints and Angels. So that, it muſt needs be highly acceptable to *JESUS*, if we be ſingularly devoted to his *Sacred Mother*; becauſe that Veneration which we give to *Mary*, redounds to *JESUS*; all Honour given to the Mother, tending to the Glory of the Son; for as he communicates with her, in Fleſh and Blood; ſo alſo doth He partake with her, in her Qualities and Perfections; and therefore He is alſo a ſharer, in that Homage and Obſervance, which is made unto Her.

6. But moreover, *Holy Mary*, as the *Mother of God*, is accompliſhed with all Natural, Moral, and ſupernatural Perfections, which are, and poſſibly may be diſperſed amongſt all *pure Creatures*, Men and Angels; and therefore, as ſhe is more holy and perfect *than all*, ſo is ſhe acceptable to God, *above all*; and therefore ought She to be Reverenced by Us, above them All; and for this cauſe did *JESUS*, Agonizing on the Bed of his Croſs (thro' an high Feaver of his Love, make it one Great Clauſe of his *Laſt Teſtament*, and Legacy of his Tranſcendent Charity to his Elect, in the Perſon of his beloved

Diſciple, S. *John*) recommend *Holy Mary* to our choice, as our *Adoptive Mother*; to all the intents, of the Duty and Devotion of the *Adoptive Children of Love*; and of the bowels of Mercy and Protection, of *a Mother* of chaſt Counſels, and heavenly Deſires.

7. Hence, the Holy *Catholick Church*, the ſpotleſs Spouſe of *JESUS*, and guided by his unerring Spirit, honoureth *Holy Mary*, the *Mother of JESUS*, with many *Feaſts*, Yearly Solemnized with great Pomp and Acclamation, in her Sacred Quires; with many *Religious* Companies of holy Souls, collected under Vows, and Duties of high Perfection, for a ſtricter Obſervance of divine Precepts and Counſels, and the amplifying God's Worſhip, under the *Glorious Name of Mary*; and with great Numbers of *Churches*, *Chappels*, and *Oratories*, Dedicated to the Honour of God, under the Protection of the *Mother of JESUS*; to the end, that by theſe publick Acts and Decrees, She may effectually Engage all her Children, to a ſpecial *Veneration* of the Sacred *Virgin*, for Her ſeveral eminent Prorogatives; to an earneſt *Impetration* of her Motherly Compaſſion and Love towards the Diſciples of *JESUS*; and to a firm *Confidence* in Her acceptableneſs to God, for the procuring a full Relief of all our Wants and Miſeries, thro' the Priviledge of Her being the *Mother of JESUS*.

8. For, Almighty God, preſerving *Mary* from all Sin, endowing *Her* with a fulneſs of Grace, adorning *Her* with the whole Train of Vertues, and

and dignifying *Her* with the unparallel'd Perfection of being the *Mother of* ✠*ESUS*; hath by a ſolemn Covenant, pronounced *Her* to be the Treaſury of Wiſdom, Grace, and Sanctity, *under* ✠*ESUS*; ſo that, whatever Gifts are beſtowed upon Us, by ✠*ESUS*; we receive them, by the *Mediation of Mary*; No one being *Gracious to* ✠*ESUS*, who is not devoted to *Mary*: Nor hath any One been ſpecially confident of the *Patronage of Mary*, who hath not, thro' *Her*, received a ſpecial Bleſſing from ✠*ESUS*. Whence, 'tis one great *Mark of the Predeſtination of the Elect*, to be ſingularly devoted to *Mary*; ſince She hath a full Power, *as a Mother*, to obtain of ✠*ESUS*, whatever He can ask of God the Father, and is comprehended within the ſphear of Man's *Predeſtination* to Glory, *Redemption* from Sin, and *Regeneration* by Grace: Neither hath any One petition'd *Mary*, who was refuſed by ✠*ESUS*; or Truſted in *Mary*, and was abandon'd by ✠*ESUS*.

9. The Eſſence of this ſpecial Devotion to *Holy Mary*, the *Mother of* ✠*ESUS*, conſiſteth, in a *Readineſs of the Will, to obſerve Her Greatneſs*, according to all the ſeveral eminent Degrees of Her Dignity, in the choiceſt Orders of *Nature*, *Grace and Glory*, by ſpecial Priviledge, above all the troops of Saints and Angels, next to the Deified Humanity of Her Son ✠*ESUS*, God and Man, ſitting in fulneſs of Wiſdom, Power, and Glory, at the right Hand of God the Father. This *ready Obſervance*, ſtreameth forth into ſeveral Acts of ſpecial Devotion, towards

wards *Mary*, the *Mother of* ✠*ESUS*: *First*, By having an inward, cordial, and passionate Value for the sublime Dignity of the *Maternity of Mary*, and all other Excellencies proper *to*, and inseparable *from*, the *Mother of God*; by *congratulating* Her in the full Possession of them; *by making* a publick Profession of this our high Esteem of Her incomparable Perfections; and *by inviting* others to the like Valuation, Congratulation, and Protestation of the several prerogatives and priviledges of the Mother of God. *Secondly*, Conformably to this sincere Value of the eminent Perfections of the Mother of ✠*ESUS*, to have inward Affections, expressed by external Acts, of the Worship of *Eminent Servitude* towards Her; by reason of the Amplitude of Her Power, in the Empire of ✠*ESUS*, founded in those Perfections of Grace, and extending it self, after some manner, to all the several Effects of our Predestination to Glory; and whereby, that our comfortable Predestination is effectually advanced, next under the efficacious influences of Grace, thro' the Merits of ✠*ESUS*, the Head-Spring of all Sanctity and Salvation: For the Power of *Mary*, in the Kingdom of ✠*ESUS*, is suitable to Her *Maternity*, and other Priviledges of Grace; and therefore by it She justly claims a *Servitude* from all *pure Creatures*; Superior to that Honour, we owe to all the Quires of Saints and Angels, of whatever Magnitude and Excellency; and next beneath that, which is due to her Son ✠*ESUS*; & may be fitly expressed, by frequent *Visiting Ho-*

ly

ly Places, dedicated to her Honour; by a *ſpecial Reverence towards Images*, repreſenting her Perſon; by performing ſome *daily Devotions*, containing Her Praiſes, congratulating her Excellencies, or imploring *her Mediation*; and by oft calling upon the Sacrad Name of *Holy MARY*, with a quick apprehenſion of the ſeveral Myſteries of her Life, and a ſenſible feeling of the tenderneſs of her Love, towards *JESUS*, and his Elect.

10. *Thirdly*, By having a firm and unſhaken *Confidence* in her Patronage, amidſt the greateſt of our inward Conflicts with ſenſuality, and outward Tribulations from the adverſe Caſualities of this Life; thro' a ſtrong Judgment of her *Eminent Power*, within the *Empire of JESUS*; grounded upon the ſingular Prerogative of Her divine *Maternity*; for, by vertue thereof, no ſtate of Man can be ſo unhappy, thro' the malice of Satan, the heats of our Paſſions, or the enormity of Sin, which exceeds her Love towards the *Diſciples of JESUS*, or the Efficacy of *her Mediation* for Us to *JESUS*; ſo that, tho' the Condition of ſome great Sinners may be ſo deplorable, that the limited Excellency, Merits, and Power of all the Saints and Angels, cannot *effectually* bend the *Mercies of JESUS*, to relieve them; yet ſuch is the *Acceptableneſs* of the *Mother of JESUS*, to *JESUS*, that who ever is under the Verge of her Protection, may confide in her Interceſſions to *JESUS*; He denying no favour to Her, whereby the Wonders of man's *Predeſtination and Redemption*, thro'

JESUS, may be magnified and promoted.

11. *Fourthly*, By inducing enormous Sinners to this firm Confidence, in the eminent Power of the *Mother of JESUS*, to redreſs the greateſt of their Evils and Miſeries, by their being under her Protection; and conſequently, by the certainty of her Mediation to *JESUS*, for them; For hereby the Devotes of *Mary*, do ſpecially teſtify their Love to Her, by *proclaiming* Her excellent Perfections, and Priviledges in the Tribunals of *JESUS*, and by *encreaſing* the number of her Clients and Servants; and alſo by *giving* new Opportunities to the *Mother of JESUS*, to apply her *eminent* Power with *JESUS*, towards the Elect.

12. *Fifthly*, By referring all the wonderful effects of our *Predeſtination* to Glory, *Election* by grace, and *Redemption* from ſin, thro' the blood of *JESUS*, to the excellent perfections of *Mary*, as a moſt effectual Means of all; for, ſince all bleſſings of *Grace*, diſpenſed within the Empire of *JESUS*, to Men and Angels, are derived originally from *JESUS*; and that we have *JESUS*, thro' *Mary*, as thro' God's favour, ſelected forth all, to the dignity of being the *Mother of JESUS*; and therefore beautified with the richeſt endowments of Nature and Grace, congruous to that dignity; we muſt acknowledg, all thoſe bleſſings, to flow from *JESUS*, to all, thro' *Mary*; and may therefore juſtly refer them all to Her, as to the moſt effectual Inſtrument, Channel and Conveyancer of All.

13. *Six-*

13. *Sixthly*, By having ever before our Eyes, and the inward affections of our Souls, the Image of all the Excellencies, Vertues, and Exerciſes of *Mary*, in this Life; and by them, drawing in our Mind, and in all our Motions, their characters, by an Imitation of Her Purity, Humility, Obedience, Meekneſs, and Her other heroick Perfections; ſo that as *Holy MARY*, by them, became perfectly amiable to God, and was ever United to Him; not only by the *Fleſh* and *Blood of JESUS*, which was entirely derived from Her; did, and ever ſhall, ſubſiſt in the divine Perſon of the Word of God; and doth thereby communicate in the Eſſence and Attributes of God; but alſo by a *perpetual Contemplation* of the Majeſty, Properties, and Myſteries of the divine Nature; by *permanent Illapſes*, thro' Love, into the depths of God's fathomleſs Sweetneſs; and transfigurations, by *exſtaſies* of Her flaming Heart, into the Clarity, Charity, and Immobility of God; and by an *exact conformity* of Her Will, to all the Decrees of God: So likewiſe ought all her Devotes, to endeavour, by a perfect Application of their Minds, Affections, and Actions, to attain unto a ſtrict *Imitation* of the rare Examples of her Life; and thereby to *renew* the Image of *God* in their Souls; and to transfuſe themſelves into the Abiſs of his Love, by contemplation of the Rays of his Glory ſhining in *Mary*; by ſallies of heavenly Deſires towards *God*, thro' the Channels of the amorous Heart of *Mary*; and by an *exact* Reſignation to the Providence of *God*, thro'

the ſeveral motions of the Soul of *Holy Mary*, and the ſacred methods of *Her* divine Vertues.

14. *Seventhly*, By accuſtoming our ſelves to ſome ſet *Forme of Devotion*, dayly to be practiſed, in honour of the *Mother of* ✠*ESUS*; of *Meditation* upon the Excellent Myſteries of her divine Life; and of *Renovation* of our manners, by Repentance and Communion, on thoſe dayes which are ſpecially dedicated to the Honour of *Mary*; for hereby we make a more perfect demonſtration of our *Obſervance* to Her; and do ſpecially engage her to protect our Perſons, plead our Cauſe, and procure helps for Us. But then, theſe Exerciſes muſt be ſo agreeing with each ones condition, that being once undertaken, we may be conſtant in the performance of them, thereby to keep our Spirits even, and then eſpecially to be diſcharg'd, with greater watchful of mind, when aſſaulted with more violent Temptations to Sin, or tepidity and dryneſs in our Spiritual Actions; for then alſo is *Holy Mary* moſt ready to Succour Us; It being her ſpecial privilege, to be the *Mother of Mercy and Beautiful Love*.

15. *Eightly*, By entring a *Solemn Covenant* with Holy *Mary*, to be for ever, her *Servant*, Client and Devote, under ſome ſpecial Rule, Society, or Form of Life; and thereby dedicating our *Perſons*, *Concerns*, *Actions*, and all the *moments* and *events* of our Life, to ✠*ESUS*, under the Protection of his *Divine Mother*; *chooſing Her* to be our Adoptive Mother, Patroneſs, and Advocate; and *entruſting her* with what

what ever we are, have, do or hope, in Life, Death, and thro' all Eternity. For by this means, we yet further engage *Holy Mary*, to be *watchful* over us, thro' all conditions of our Lives; to *Petition* the Holy Trinity, to preſerve and confirm its Divine Image in our Souls; and to be *earneſt* with her Son *JESUS*, to be our *Doctor*, in all matters of Chriſtian Faith, Duty and Diſcipline; to be our *Phyſitian*, amidſt all our Spiritual Maladies, Griefs and Languours; to be a *Father* to us, in all our Failings, Wants and Miſeries; and to be a Meek *Judg* at the hour of Death, when the World, our Fleſh and Satan, ſhall plead againſt us.

16. But, the more effectually to acquire, promote and confirm this *Holy Obſervance*, towards the Mother of *JESUS*; What ever we apprehend ſuitable to our calling, and do reſolve to undertake, muſt be carefully put in practice; Leſt our Devotions to her, be purely contemplative, without a *due Value* of her ſpecial Dignity and Power, *a firm Confidence* in her patronage over Us, and Mediation for Us; and that earneſtly deſired *advancement*, in our Conqueſts over ſenſuality and Satan, and eaſineſs to Chriſtian Duties; all which, this ſpecial *Devotion* towards *Mary*, the Mother of *JESUS*, chiefly deſigns; and without which, all Devotion is barren, unſavory and uſeleſs. Wherefore, 1. Have a *Private Oratory*, dedicated to the Veneration of Holy *MARY*, adorned with ſome decent and devout Image of *JESUS*, and *MARY*, fitly repreſenting their Loves, and moſt effectually raiſing af-

affections of Veneration to God, and Divine Myſteries; *here* thro' the Mediation of *MARY*, offer up to *JESUS*, your early and evening Vowes, Obſervances and Requeſts; therein behave your ſelf, as in the preſence of Holy *Mary*, ever ſurveying the preſent State of your Soul, all your thoughts and projects, and every tract of your Converſation. *Going thence*, put your ſelf wholly under her protection; recommend all your Motions, to the Mercies of *JESUS*, thro' the Mediation of *MARY*; and beg of her, ever to accompany you, as your Sacred Guide, Advocate and Champion, againſt the aſſaults of Sin and Senſuality. 2. *Regiſter your ſelf*, (at leaſt by ſome private contract and Covenant, with Holy *MARY*, made in your Oratory,) in ſome devout Confraternity, erected in *Honour of MARY*, the Mother of *JESUS*; under *that* ſpecial Title, which is apteſt to raiſe in your hearts a *tenderneſs* of Love towards *JESUS*, and of *Obſervance* towards Holy *MARY*, That thoſe *Bleſſings*, which our Perſonal Devotions may not hope for, joyned with the piety of her other devotes, will moſt effectually be obtained of Her. 3. *Preſcribe* to your ſelf, *a fet time*, for a morning and evening Retreat, to your private Oratory; and chuſe ſome ſpecial Method of practical Contemplation, in the Honour of *Holy MARY*, ſuitable to your Devotion, and the Obligations of your State; Theſe ſhould never be omitted; at leaſt, their Omiſſion muſt be ſupplied, at better leiſure; however ſhort theſe be, they will be acceptable to Her, and beneficial to your

own

own ſoul, by fitting your Spirit to Divine Colloquies, and the ſeveral duties of your calling. 4. *Permit no Feaſt of Holy MARY* to paſs by, without a Vigil, by Faſt, Prayer, and ſpecial Self-denial; and by renovation of your Chriſtian Vows, by the Sacraments, of Penance, and holy Euchariſt; and upon all *Saturdays*, make a weekly ſurvey of your inward Conſtitution, and outward Converſation; Renew the Guards over your ſenſes, and the ſeveral Motions of your Soul, and practice ſome ſpecial Vertue and Auſterity, upon that Day, as well, to abate the heats of your Vice, you muſt ſtruggle with, and to promote that Vertue you moſt want; as to conform your ſelf to *Holy MARY*, that day pierced with the *Sword of Sorrow*, for the death of her beloved Son *JESUS*. 5. *Enter upon no buſineſs*, of what ever nature, without firſt conſulting Holy *MARY*, by humble Prayer; recommending its whole progreſs to her protection; and aſſuming Her, as a Guide, in the purſuance thereof. 6. *Invite all* under your charge, to this *Obſervance*, towards the Mother of *JESUS*, that by *multiplying* her devotes, and *propagating* her honour, you may with the greater confidence have acceſs to Her. 7. *Be ſpecially devoted* to the *Saints* of Her ſacred Family, to the holy *Seraphims* employed in the Myſteries of Her Life; and to all thoſe *bleſſed* Souls, who have been renowned for their Piety towards *Holy MARY*; and frequently interpoſe their Mediation to Her, by devout Aſpirations; that by their acceptableneſs to Her,

and

and authority with Her, you may the more effectually obtain those blessings you beg of *JESUS*, thro' the Intercession of His divine Mother. 8. *Visit often* Holy Places, dedicated to her Honour; especially such as are most frequented by devout Christians, either for the amplifying her *Illustrious Name*, dignity and power, as the *Mother of JESUS*; or for the propagating a *Veneration* of her, under some other peculiar Priviledge, of her eternal *Predestination*, next to JESUS; her Immaculate *Conception*, &c. or for the acknowledging some special Miracle, wrought there, thro' her Intercession; For as *JESUS* hath endowed his divine Mother, with gifts and priviledges, above all pure Creatures: So doth he singularly favour Petitions, made to Him by Her, in places particularly consecrated to Her Veneration; which therefore we ought carefully to promote, adorn, and frequent; and never to abandon, till we have renewed our Covenant of Observance towards her, proposed Methods of special Devotions to Her, and implored her Blessing and Mediation, for the due performance of all our Christian duties. Then may we securely trust in the Blessings of *JESUS*; for he *blesseth* those, whom *Mary* blesseth; *owns* them as his beloved Disciples, whom she *adopts* as her Children; and *refuseth* no Petition, which is prefer'd in the *Name of Mary*; because what ever Worship, *Observance*, or Action, is performed to the honour of the *Mother of JESUS*, tends to the honour of *JESUS*, as the supream Lord, Ruler, and Directer of all Christians.

THE

The FIRST CONTEMPLATION.

At Matins.

The Eternal Predeſtination of the Mother of *JESUS.*

17. *Conſider.* 1. That God, in himſelf happy; and wanting, neither *Men*, nor *Angels*; for his pleaſure, or profit; decreed the *Creation* of Both, to endow them with their ſeveral perfections of Nature, Grace, and Glory; and enrowl them Citizens of His Heavenly Paradiſe; Now, tho' *Angels* be pure Spirits, and are therefore next to God, as to their natural Excellencies; and *Man* be a Compound of Spirit and Fleſh, and is therefore liker to Beaſts, as to his outward Subſtance, and in the order of Nature; Yet in the order of Grace, *God* ſo loved Man, that to compleat the Circle of *Predeſtination*, he ordained the *Union* of Man, with God, in the *Per-*

ſon of His only, coeternal and conſubſtantial Son; and thus to dignify Him above Angels, as His *proper Son*, with the Title, and Attributes of God; to make Him the Patern, and inſtrument of their Predeſtination; and to Create Him the Object of their Love, Worſhip, and everlaſting Happineſs. And to accompliſh this *Wonder of his Love*, God did from all eternity decree, the Creation of *Mary*, a Perſon of that eminent Perfection, that ſhould be a *joynt Cauſe*, with the Holy Ghoſt, in the Conception, Generation, Birth and Education of this his *proper Son*, JESUS, God and Man; perfect in both Natures, accompliſht with their ſeveral Attributes, and ſubſiſting inſeparably, and without permixtion, in the Perſon of the divine Word; Whereby *Holy Mary*, was from all eternity *Predeſtinated*, to the ſtupendious Dignity, of being the *Mother of God*; whereby ſhe infinitely ſurpaſſeth all the Excellencies of Men and Angels; and is Qualified, next to JESUS.

18. *Conſider.* 2. That as JESUS, according to his humane Nature, by reaſon of its *Hypoſtatical Union*, with the Eſſence of God, in the Perſon of the Word, is the *Proper Son* of God; and was therefore Predeſtinated to the higheſt degree of Glory, poſſible by the infinite Power of *God*; and incomparably above all the Glory, of the whole collection of *pure Creatures*; and moreover, was preordained to be the *Patern*, Rule and Meaſure of the *Predeſtination* of Men and Angels; all being alotted their ſeveral degrees and proportions of *Glory*, thro' JESUS, with

with Subordination to, and dependency on his *Glory*, as the eminential Sum, origin and means of All: So also *holy Mary*, by reason of her Predestination, to the inestimable dignity of being the *true Mother of God*; was preordained to a degree of *Glory*, more perfect than that which was designed, to the whole train of other *pure Creatures*; only beneath the *exuberant Glory* of *JESUS*; so that the Predestination of *Mary* to Glory, was in perfection and order, next to that of *JESUS*; the most perfect *Copy* of that Vast Original; and with regard to which, all the Saints and Angels, have their measures of Glory set forth, thro' a *redundancy of Hers*, and in a Subordinate *proportion to Hers*; The Glory of *all* neither exceeding the Glory of the *Mother of JESUS*; nor being, by a vast distance, equal to it; *The possession of* Mary *being in the fulness of the Saints*; and Thus, as *JESUS* is the *Head* and supream *Lord* of all the Predestinated: So is *Mary* the Queen of all the Saints and Angels.

19. *Consider.* 3. That as *JESUS*, in Right of his Hypostatical Union; and his thence arising Title, to the highest degree of Glory, possible to creatures; was *endowed* with an ineffable fulness of all gifts of *Wisdom*, *Innocency* and *Grace*, above the capacity of all *pure Creatures*; had a most ample and unrestrained *Power of Miracles*, in all kinds; was appointed the *Supream Administratour* of Grace, *Lawmaker* of Christians, and *Judg* of all Causes of Men and Angels, without Limit or Appeal; and moreover from his

first *Conception*, was so preordain'd to all these immens perfections, and singular Priviledges, that he needed not any infused ayd of *Actual Grace*, to quicken his understanding or Will, to supernatural Motions; because his Divine Nature, substantially united to his Humanity, in the *Person* of Gods *Word*, ever actuated the great Soul of *JESUS*, kept all his faculties, and habitual gifts, in perpetual action; and without releas of Vigour, or limitation from the Variety of supernatural objects; ever flowed forth into most *Heroick Acts* of Divine Love, and Sacred Vertues, of all kinds: So likewise, *Holy MARY* in right of her being the *Mother of JESUS*, and thereby being chosen to a *fulness of Glory*, next to *JESUS*, above all other *pure Creatures*; was accordingly enriched, with the choicest gifts of nature and grace, suitable to the ineffable dignity and singular priviledg of her Divine *Maternity*; and was therefore adorned with a most Uniform Temper of Body, and harmony of the Passions of her Mind; *Her Soul* was endowed with most copious treasures of Knowledge, Innocency and Holiness; She was elevated to a most ample *Power*, to *protect* Her Clients and Devotes, to *shelter* them against the assaults of their Enemies, and to *relieve* their Wants and Calamities; and was ever watchful, and active in divine Love, and supernatural Operations; having an uninterrupted influence of actual Graces, so quickning her great Soul, that no one moment of her Life, from the *first Conception* of her Soul, was vacant from

divine

Divine Contemplation, heavenly *affections, and Extasies* of supernatural Love; by Vertue of the special presence of the Holy Ghost, most effectually managing all the Concerns of this his Spous, by *illapses* of the most efficacious gifts of Wisdom, Grace and Vertue, and by his own personal immediate cooperation, direction and accomplishment of all her Actions; *appreciatively, intensively* and *extensively*, moving towards *God*. Therefore doth the *Seraphim* proclaim Her, by Commission from *God*, to be *Full of Grace, because God is with her*; and with him, all the *Angels* own her, to be their *Queen*. Therefore doth holy *Elizabeth* denounce her, in the name of his precursor, *Blessed above Women*; by reason of the Divine fruit of her Sacred Womb, JESUS, and with her all the *Saints* confess her, to be their Supream *Lady* and Patroness, and therefore doth the Holy *Catholick Church* request her *Intercession* and Protection, over all Believers through each moment of Life, and *at the Hour of Death*, by inspiration of the Holy Ghost guiding to all truth, because she is the *true Mother of God*; and with her, All *Christians* vow *Obedience, Fealty* and *Homage* to Her, as to their Supream Governess, *Leige Lady* and Advocate.

20. Affection. *How Excellent! How Glorious! How Holy art Thou*, O Mother of JESUS! *in the Heights of thy Majesty, the Latitude of thy Happyness, and the Fulness of thy Grace, and Divine gifts; Thou wert the first, and most delicious Object of Gods Love, towards* pure Creatures,

cures, *from the beginning of Eternity*; *so beloved of God, amongst All, he decreed*, first *to create Thee*, and then *to make Himself thy* SON. *This is thy special Priviledg*, O Divine MARY; *As* JESUS *is the Signet of Gods Likeness*: *so is* Mary *the wonder of his power*; *next to* JESUS, *in Glory, Grace and Power*; *ever abiding in God, by Love, Conformity and Introversion*; *above all Angels and Saints, by dignity of thy Person, Prerogatives of Glory, and Priviledges of Grace. Therefore shall the righteous Love, observe and obey thee, as their most Eminent, Happy and Holy* Princess, Refuge and safeguard.

21. *Resolution*: I do firmly purpose from hence forth, to Register my self amongst thy Adoptive Children, *O Divine*, most glorious, and gracious *Mother of* JESUS; I heartily congratulate *Thee*, in thy eternal *Predestination* to these eminent Dignities and Priviledges in the Empire of Grace; and will ever observe Thee, as my *Soveraign Lady*, Adoptive Mother, and most powerful Patroness; relying on thy bowels of Mercy, in all my Wants, Petitions, and Tribulations of *Body and Mind*.

The Prayse.

22. HAil MARY *full of Grace, Our Lord is with Thee*; *Blessed art thou amongst Women, and Blessed is the Fruit of thy Womb* JESUS; *Holy* Mary, *Mother of God, Pray for us Sinners, now, and in the hour of our Death.*

Vers. Open my Lips, *O Mother of* JESUS;

Resp. And

Resp. And my Soul ſhall ſpeak forth thy praiſe.
V. Divine Lady, be intent to my aid;
R. Graciouſly make haſt to help Me.
V. Glory be to *JESUS, and Mary*;
R. As it was, is, and ever ſhall be.

The Hymne.

23. *ALL hail, moſt high moſt heav'nly One,*
Above the Angels, beneath the Sunne
Great in thy power, great in God's Choice,
Make Men, and Angels, and Heav'ns rejoice.
God, who made all things, firſt begun;
Made Thee, his Mother; himſelf, thy Sun;
In choice next JESUS, *next in Bliſs;*
In whom all Graces meet, and Kiſs.
Great Mother of God, full of Grace,
May Mercy ſtill in thee take place,
Thy Clyents ſave, from Sin, and ſhame.
In life and death, for MARY'S Name.
Glory to JESUS, MARY'S *Son;*
To God the Father *worſhip be done;*
And to God's Spirit *praiſe and bliſs;*
As ever was, ſhall be, and is. Amen.

Anthem. *I was preordained from the Beginning, before the Creation of the World; my Habitation was in the higheſt, and my Throne was ſeated on a Pillar of Light.*

Pſalm 8.

24. MAry, Mother of *JESUS*: How wonderful is thy *Name*, even unto the ends of the Earth.

AN

All magnificence be given to *Mary*; and let her be exalted above the Stars and Angels.

Reign on high, as *Queen of Seraphims* and Saints; and be thou crowned with Honour and Glory.

Innocency and Mercy hath exalted thy *Name*, above the Sphear of pure Creatures.

Exceeding glorious is *Mary*, the Mother of *JESUS*; thy *Name* is wonderful above the Clouds.

Glory be to *JESUS*, and *Mary*; as it was, is, and ever shall be. *Amen.*

Anth. *I was preordained.*

V. *Holy* Mary, *Mother of God:*

R. *Pray for Us Sinners, now, and in the hour of our death.*

The Blessing. Thro' the Merits and Intercession of the *Mother of JESUS*, may we come safe to the harbour of eternal Salvation.

V. *Bid us be blessed, O holy* Mary.

R. *Bless us, O* Mary, *the Mother of* JESUS.

The Lesson.

25. I Issued forth, out of the Bosome of *God* on high, the first Conceived before all Creatures; my Abode is in the depths, and my Throne in a Pillar of Light; He who made me, took his Rest in my *Tabernacle*; My Inheritance is in the *choicest* Blessings of my *God*, and my Possession is in the *fulness* of the Saints. For *I am* the *Mother* of beautiful Love, of holy Fear, Knowledge, and Hope. In *me* is all *grace* of truth,

truth, and righteous wayes, and all Hope of Life and Vertue.

V. *Be thou O* Mary *merciful to Us.*
R. *And by thee, be all glory to* JESUS.

The Cantique.

26. LEt Us Praiſe *thee, O Mother of* JESUS: Let us acknowledge thee our Soveraign Lady.

Let Men and Angels give honour to *thee*; the *firſt Conceived* of all *pure Creatures.*

To *thee* the morning *Stars*, and higheſt *Seraphims*: Sing Glory, for thy Magnificence.

Make Interceſſion for Us, *O powerful Mother of* JESUS: For God will not refuſe thee our Petitions.

Then ſhall we rejoyce in the fulneſs of thy Glory: And ſhall ſing the Praiſes of JESUS, for ever.

The Second Contemplation.

At Laudes.

The Immaculate Conception Of the Mother of JESUS.

27. C*onſid.* 1. That many Ages having paſſed, Under the Laws of *Rational Nature*, and

the *Positive Institutions of Moses*, wherein the Elect groaned under the tyranny of Sin, and their baniſhment forth of *Paradice*; and the comfortable Time of God's *Mercies* now approaching, in which He had, from all Eternity decreed our Redemption from Sin, and our reſtoring to his Favour, by a *Law of Grace*, *healing Sacraments*, and an *effuſion* of the *Treaſures* of his *Love*, thro' the *Exuberant Merits* of *JESUS*; He purſues the production of his divine *Mother*, by Rules ſuitable, to the *Excellency* of *JESUS her Son*, to the *Amplitude* of his Mediation for Sinners, and to the *Magnificence* of his own illimited Power, in the production of a *pure Creature*, in the higheſt Rank of *Natural* and *Supernatural* Perfection; Therefore is She ordained, to be *born* of holy *Joachim* and *Anne*, by means of *Natural propagation*, from the choſen People of God; and amongſt theſe, from a long chain of *Prieſts*, *Prophets*, *Patriarks*, *Kings*, *Conquerors*, and Illuſtrious *Saints*; of whom the *Mother of JESUS* deſcended, as to her perfect & *immaculate Body*; which being now fitted with neceſſary Organs, for the Infuſion of her *great Soul*, God *creates* it with all its choiceſt *Attributes* of Underſtanding, Will, and connatural Faculties; *infuſeth* it into that excellent Body, and *diffuſeth* it thro' all her pure Members; whereby She is made a *natural child* of *Adam*; and in the ſame *inſtant of Time*, God adorns Her with the rich gifts of *Original Innocency*, a fulneſs of *Sanctifying Grace*, and a moſt ample train of *moral* and *ſupernatural* Wiſdom and Vertues; and thus *divine grace* prevented

in

in Holy *Mary*, all *ſtain of Sin*; and conſequently, all the Vicious *effects of Sin*, *diſorders of paſſions*, *rebellions of ſenſuality*, *and lyableneſs to Gods diſpleaſure*; ſo that, ſhe, in no *poſitive moment* of Her Life, lay under the *guilt* of Sin, was an *Object* of Gods Wrath, or *owed* any ſubjection to the power of Satan. This is the proper, ſingular and moſt *Eminent Priviledg* of *Mary*, comformable to the ineſtimable dignity of her being *predeſtinated*, to be the *true Mother of God*; and thereby; 1. *To be the moſt Excellent, innocent and holy amongſt all pure Creatures*; 2. To invite us to *obſerve Her*, as one ſpecially *priviledg'd* by Almighty God, *beautified* with his Guifts, and *entruſted* with the moſt important Myſteries of *JESUS*, and mans redemption by Him; and to *teach* Us, what *purity* becomes thoſe, who approach Holy Places, Sacred Exerciſes, Divine Sacraments; and eſpecially, with what *Remorſe*, *Dread and Love* Man ſhould, attend to the ineffable Sacrifice, approach Gods Altar, touch *JESUS*, with his hands, kiſs him with his lips, and lodg HIM in his Heart.

28. *Conſider*. 2. That altho' *Adam*, and (thro' his *Luſt*, Pride and Diſobedience,) all his *poſterity*, deſcending from Him by *Natural propagation*, were *guilty* of Sin, *Enemies* of God, *Exiles* of Heaven, and *Subject* to an unconceivable number, of Vicious and Penal Calamities; yet the *Mother of JESUS*, was by a Special Decree of *preſervation*, *exempted* from the rigour of that general *Edict*; *pronounced* in the conſiſtory of Heaven, againſt *Adam*, *and his Rebel-*

lious Offspring, and by vertue of that ſpecial Decree, *Mary*, in and from the firſt moment of her paſſive *Conception*, was *wholly Immaculate*, *Eminently holy*, and *unalterably acceptable to God*; Theſe being the connatural Attributes, priviledges and prerogatives of the *Mother* of God; ſo that, to conceive leſs of Her, is vertually to deny her Divine *Maternity*. Wherefore, as holy *Mary* conceived *JESUS*, by a moſt ſtupendious *Cooperation* of the *Holy Ghoſt*; was an *Immaculate Virgin*, in the *Conception and Birth* of *JESUS*; brought forth *JESUS*, without the *uſual Anguiſhes* and pains; dyed of a *Feaver* of *Extatick* Love of God, without Sorrows, and diſſolution into our Original Aſhes; and having finiſhed her *Earthly* Pilgrimage, was without delay *Aſſumed in Body and Soul*, and ſeated above all the *Quires* of Angels; contrary to the *general Decree*, enacted by God, againſt all the Children of *Adam*; So alſo was the ſame *Holy Mary*, in her *Paſſive Conception* in the Womb of St. *Anne*, graciouſly *preſerved* from the general infection of *Adams* Sin; *beautified* with the rich guifts, of the Original Innocency, Sanctifying Grace, and the whole train of *acquirable and infuſed* Vertues; and had the perfect *uſe of Reaſon*, whereby ſhe had a moſt ſublime *Knowledg* of the *hidden Nature* of God, of the *ſecret Decrees* of his Will, and of the *Myſteries* of Divine Grace; and even then, *Exerciſed Acts* of a moſt *pure, enflamed and reſtleſs Love* towards God; and ſung a Joyful *Magnificat* to her Wonderful Benefactour, *who had done*

done theſe great things by his power, raiſing Her to a ſtate of perfection, in all kinds, far above all other pure Creatures; then alſo did the Bleſſed Troops of Glorifyed *Angels*, ſing a joyful *Glory be to the Mother of God on high*; She being then conceived, who was to conceive and bring forth the *Enemplar* of their Predeſtination, the *Fountain* of their Grace and Glory, *Redeemer* of Man, and the *Reſtorer* of their Ruins. Then likewiſe did the *Holy Souls* of the *Patriarks*, *Prophets* and *Saints* of the Law of *Nature* and *Moſes*, confined in *Lymbo* rejoyce, that the *Rod of JESSE was floured*, on which the *Holy Ghoſt repoſed*, by a fulneſs of Grace; and who by a ſtupendious fecundity, received from the chaſt, amorous and delicious *Influences* of the ſame *Divine Spirit*, ſhould ſoon after, ſprout forth the deifyed Fruit *JESUS*; in whom, *all* the Quires of Angels in Heaven; and all Nations on Earth, ſhould be *Bleſſed*.

29. *Conſid.* 3. That Divine *JESUS is the Splendour of the Subſtance of God, the Image of his Fathers Glory, and the Mirrour without ſpot*: Therefore, *He as God*, being conſubſtantial to God the Father; and *as Man*, being alſo conſubſtantial to *Holy Mary*; he was a perfect Light, a pure Character, and a ſpotleſs Ray, in *both* his *Generations*; Hence, as in his *Eternal Generation*, he iſſued forth of the *ever Glorious* Boſom of his Father; ſo in his *Temporal Birth*, did he ſpring forth of the *Ever Gracious* Womb of his Mother; for if *JESUS* was entirely Ho-

ly,

ly, *Maries Fleſh* was never defiled; becauſe *the Tree is known by the Fruit*, according to Chriſts Doctrine; and according to the Apoſtle, *The Branches are Holy, if the Root be Sanctified*; Thus in the *Old Law*, *Moſes Ark* was made of Wood, that could not *Putrify*; becauſe therein were to be conſerved, *Aarons flowring Rod*, the Heavenly *Manna*, and the *Tables* of the Law; and behold *JESUS*, more than theſe: Therefore *Mary* was *Ever Immaculate*, becauſe *JESUS* was to reſt *in Her*, and to take Fleſh *of Her*; even *He*, who is the Conſubſtantial *SON* of GOD, our Divine *Euchariſt*, and the Author of the *Goſpel of Grace*, Peace, and Love. Surely *JESUS* being the Son *of Mary*, and the true God; *as God*, he could preſerve his Divine Mother from all Sin; as *Gods Wiſdom*, he knew the tracts of Grace, and methods of Holineſs; and *as Gods goodneſs*, he would, according to his Power and Knowledge, Honour his Divine Mother, even for *Example ſake*, in doing that, he requires of All; and for *his own ſake too*; the infamy of the *Mother*, reflecting upon the *Son*. But *as Man*, *JESUS* is a moſt perfect *Redeemer*, *Reconciler*, and *Mediator*; and therefore exerciſed a moſt entire Act, of that gracious end of his Miſſion; this Act is, *by way of preſervation* from the general Sentence of Original guilt, and if exerciſed towards any, moſt effectually in regard of his Divine Mother; and as *JESUS* on the Croſs, offered his Sacred Blood, Anguiſhes and Death, to God, after this moſt ſublime manner, and for this ſo eminently dignified a Creature: So

alſo

alſo was His whole *Paſſion*, from Eternity thus accepted for her; Becauſe *JESUS* had not perfectly appeaſed Gods Wrath againſt men, had he not preſerved *One Soul*, from Sin, and Gods Anger incurred by it. Second, Becauſe Original Sin is a far greater Puniſhment, than the privation of the Sight of God, it depriving man of his intrinſick Harmony, Evenneſs and Joy, and therefore was the rather to be prevented, *in ſome one* excellent Soul. Third, becauſe Innocency, is much more Honourable, and Valuable, then Sanctification; and therefore it becomes a *moſt perfect Mediator*, much rather to preſerve the Innocency of *ſome One*, then only to purchace the *Sanctification* of all; As then, all the Angels of Heaven are innocent tho' *pure Creatures*, thro' the *Merits* of *JESUS*: So more evidently, this *Angel of the Earth* is Innocent, tho' a *pure Creature*, becauſe the Mother of *their* Saviour *JESUS*.

30. Affect. *Thou art wholly beautiful*, O Divine Mother; *nor was there ever any ſpot in thee*; *for what ever is moſt perfect and poſſible, in a pure Creature, muſt be allowed to Thee*, O Mother of JESUS; *for* JESUS, as God, *is the Power of God, the Treaſury of Wiſdom, and the Abyſſe of goodneſs*; *and as* Man, *he is a moſt perfect Mediator, and the beſt of Sons*; *and therefore art thou, the holyeſt of Mothers*, O Mother of God! *Thy Dignity is ineffable, and therefore is thy Purity without parallel. Let me ever* obſerve *thy Majeſty*, Admire *thy Innocence*, Imitate *thy ſanctity*, and confide *in thy Mercy*; Thy Son, *who ſaved thee*

thee from all Sin; Will not refuse thy Petitions for Us, grievous Sinners, now, and in the hour of our death; O *MARY*, Mother of *JESUS*.

31. *Resol.* I do purpose henceforth, to be specially devoted to *Thee, O Mother of JESUS*, under thy most Illustrious Title of thy *Immaculate Conception* in the Womb of thy holy Mother; because this Mystery is the special *signet* of Gods Love, to thee, above all Mortals, thy Singular *priviledg* amongst the Saints, and a most efficacious *Engagement* of thy Mercies, to commiserate Sinners; and for this end, my private Oratory shall be dedicated to the Honour of the ever *Immaculate Mother of JESUS*; and all my Devotions shall be offered up to *JESUS*, thro' the Mediation of his Unspotted Mother, as thereby more acceptable to God, and profitable to my Soul.

The Praise.

32. HAil *MARY*, &c.

33. Anna. *Wholly Beautyfull art thou*, O Mother of JESUS, *Wholly Beautifull art thou; neither is there any spot of Sin in Thee.*

Psal. 14.

MOther of God, who shall abide in the Tabernacle of thy *SON*: Who shall repose on the Holy mountain of *Sion?*

Admirable

Admirable Virgin, thou who did'ſt enter the World without Spot; and wert preſerv'd in thy Original Juſtice.

Rejoyce, becauſe thou didſt ſpeak truth in thy heart: neither was *deceit* found in thy Lips.

Juſt things haſt thou ever done to thy ſervants: and haſt pleaded our cauſe, at the thrown of *Mercy*.

Everlaſting be the *Glory of* JESUS; by whoſe power thou wert Created without Spot.

Glory be to JESUS, &c. n. 24.

Anth. *Wholly beautiful*: &c. n. 33.

The Chapter.

34. From the beginning I was conceived in Innocency, and ſerved God in his holy Houſe: I was confirmed in Sion, and did abide ever the ſame, in his ſanctifyed City. R. *Glory be to* JESUS.

The Hymne.

35. MARY, *thou fair, and Spotleſs One,*
Virgin Pure, Mother of Gods Son:
More choice, more chaſt, more fair, more bright,
Then higheſt Seraph, heaven's Star-Light.
E're Eve *gave Life, ſhe caus'd our fall;*
She brought forth ſin, which kill'd Us all;
Thy ſoul ſhined ever, as high-noon-Day,
Grace Led thee thro' the Milky Way.
Hail cloſed Garden, Living ſpring;
Pillar of light, Throne of our King:
The Gate ever ſhut, the fountain ſeal'd,
The morning ſtar of Grace reveal'd.

Glory to JESUS, n. 23.

V. *Thou wert wholly Immaculate in thy Conception.*

R. *Neither was there ever Spot in thee.*

Let us Pray.

O *God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin* MARY, *didſt prepare a fit habitation for thy Son* JESUS *Grant unto Us, that, as thro' fore-ſight of the paſſion of that thy beloved* Son, *thou didſt preſerve Her, from all ſtain of ſin: So thro' her Interceſſion, we may be purified from all Guilt, and may appear before thee; Thro' the ſame* JESUS *Chriſt our Lord,* Amen.

The THIRD CONTEMPLATION.

At Prime.

THE NATIVITY

Of the

Mother of JESUS.

36. *Conſid.* 1. That *holy Mary*, being by a ſingular Priviledge, (in regard of Her divine *Maternity*) perfectly innocent, Holy and full

full of Grace, Wiſdom and all Vertues, in the *firſt Poſitive inſtant*, of the infuſion of her ſoul; ſhe from thence forth ever exerciſed the moſt ſublime operations of the *Contemplative*, and *Unitive* Life, without recourſe to the *Images* of Imagination, or dependance on ſenſe; by the help of *abſtractive Lights*, divinely infuſed, repreſenting 1. The ſeveral *eſſenſes*, *attributes* and *motions* of the whole Body of the Creation, in their ſeveral degrees and ſtations: 2. The *Divinity* of God, with its manifold *Emanations*, *Operations*, and Unexplicable *comprehenſions*: 3. And the *Humanity* of *JESUS*, with all the *Orders* of Grace, *Myſteries* of Salvation, and *Extatick Loves* of the Saints; Whereby Her Great ſoul was ſo compleatly Actuated, even in the Womb of her *Mother*, that her *contemplations*, *ſalies* of Love, and *Unions* with God, were reſtleſs; ever increaſing in their Vigour, and ſtill expatiating thro' the vaſt Motives and Methods of *Myſtical Love*. Thus Divine *Mary*, became ſtill more *acceptable* to God, *repleniſhed* with Grace, and *abſorpt* in the abyſs of ſupernatural perfection; which wonderfully encreaſed the *Languiſhings* of the *Angels*, *Souls* in Lymbo, and of her holy *Parents*, for the hour of her *Birth*. For altho' her *Nativity* would be very Illuſtrious, for her deſcent from *Kings*, *Prieſts*, *Prophets* and *Patriarcks* renowned for Power, Wiſdom, and worldly Treaſures and Glory; and ſpecially choſen by Almighty God, as perſons with whom, He would *entruſt* his ſacred *Oracles*, *Rites* and *Laws*; and with whom he *converſed* familiarly, and whom he protected

miraculouſly, and to whom he moſt liberally diſpenſed his favours; yet was *ſhe* incomparably more conſpicuous, for her Rare *Prerogatives* of Innocency, Grace, and early activeneſs of her Great ſoul, on the beſt of Objects, and the Holyeſt of Motives; even yet further, ſhe was unconceivably more *Glorious*, in being deſigned to be the *Mother of* JESUS; and that Her rich blood, in JESUS, ſhould be *Price* of the World, the *Laver* of ſinners, and the *Purchace* of the Saints; and ſhould be ſo pleaſing to God, as to be acceptable, for the *Inſurance* of the *Purpoſe* of the predeſtination of Men and Angels; for the *raiſing* an Unexhauſtible *fund* of Grace, in the *Sacraments*; and for the propagating *Citizens* of Heaven, *partakers* in Gods Counſels, and *partners* in his Glory. Therefore did all men and Angels, with earneſt deſires, thirſt after Her *Birth*, as an approaching prelude to all theſe ineſtimable *Bleſſings* of *Grace* and *Glory*.

37. *Conſid.* 2. That that comfortable *Moment* being now arrived, wherein this divine Creature, ſo holy, ſo accompliſht in all *Naturall*, *Morall* and *Supernatural* Perfections, and ſo gracious and acceptable to the *bleſſed Trinity*; and deſired by *Men and Angels*; was to make her Entry into this World, by her *nativity*; How *ſhee*, as a moſt illuſtrious *morning ſtar*, coming forth a *black Cloud* of the night of ſin, (wherein baniſht Man had groaned, under a hard *Captivity* of ſenſuality, and *baniſhment* from Gods comfortable preſence, ever ſince *Adams prevarication*, from Gods commands, in the earthly *Paradice*;)

preſently

preſently diſperſeth the thick *Vapours* of ſorrow, which till then, darkned the Rational World, and clog'd our affections to ſupernatural *lights*, and *attractives*; and by her *riſing*, proclaimed the approach of the *Sun of Juſtice*, her ſon *JESUS*, who ſhould create a clear *day of Mercies*, enlighten the World with the beams of his *Goſpel of peace*, and enflame our hearts with the Love of Spiritual, Heavenly and Divine Comforts. What could be more *glorious* in its ſelf, more *deſirable* in its Effects, or more *comfortable* to mortals, then the *Birth* of this Innocent, Holy and *Illuſtrious* Child, the future *Mother of JESUS*? amongſt the *Angels* God found iniquity, there was a *ſerpent* within the delicious fields of the earthly Paradice, the *Sun and Stars* have their ſpots and failings; and the *greateſt* of this World, is infected with the Leproſy of ſin, beſieged with Miſeries, and is the wretched object of Gods curſe and vengeance, in the *firſt Moment* of his entring this World; But in this *Bleſſed Babe*, there is no ſin, curſe or wretchedneſs: but a *fulneſs* of perfection meets here, and Kiſſes, to render her *Birth adorable*; alſo outward *Beauty*, and an inward *Harmony* of all the powers, of her Body and Mind, within its ſelf, above the tentations of Creatures, and beneath the Imperiall power of God, thro' an Aſſembly of all Gifts, Vertues and Graces in all the Regions of her great Soul; whereby to render her *preſence*, illuſtrious and joyfull; and whereby ſhe ſhould be the *Subject*, of our Admiration and Prays, and the *object* of our Love, and *ſuperiour ſervitude* and obſervance.

38. *Consid.* 3. That from the *first instant*, wherein the world was bleſt with the *birth* of the *Mother of* JESUS, Heaven and Earth ſeemed to put off *Mourning*, and to be cloathed with *Joy*; For now the Gates of *Paradice* ſeem again to be ſet open, an eternal *Jubily* proclaim'd, a General *Peace* publiſhed, a free *Entercourſe* decreed, between men and Angels; and the *throne* of Gods mercy, *erected* on earth; and made acceſſable, to the moſt enormous criminals; All theſe moſt incomparable *Bleſſings* begin to ſhine on unhappy Man, thro' the *Advent* of divine *Mary*. For the *Fleſh of Mary*, conſubſtantiall to ours, ſhall e're long become the *fleſh of* JESUS, aſſumed to a *conſiſtency* with the *divine Nature*, in the *perſon* of the Word of God, become the *price* of the World, and the *Reconciler* of ſinners to God; and ſhall make us *conſubſtantial* to JESUS; and thereby, *Man* ſhall become the *Brother* of JESUS, and this *divine* Creature ſhall be our *adoptive Mother*, becauſe the *true Mother* of JESUS; in whoſe blood, we ſhall be new born, by a Spiritual *Regeneration*, from ſin to grace, and an *inheritance* of everlaſting Glory, and a *power* to become the *Sons of God*. This *Mother of* JESUS, now Born, is the *Mother* of *Chriſtians*; becauſe ſhe ever hath the bowels of a Mothers compaſſion opened to us; by *mercy* to us, in our ſinfull ſtate; by *Mediation* for us, for the Grace of JESUS; and by *Protection* over us, amids the Temptations, on all ſides ſet to entrap us. *Behold*, with what Glory, the *Sun* this day riſeth, to beautify *Marie's entry* amongſt

us;

us; What *Homage*, and *Offerings* the *Angels* make, before the cradle of their Illuſtrious *Queen*; what acclamations of joy, reſound from the *ſouls in Lymbo*; for the *birth* of the *Mother of* JESUS; and with what Harmony, all thoſe bleſſed ſouls preſent at this great Myſtery, Cry out, *Who is this Child, becauſe the hand of God is Wonderfull upon her*? with what alacrity, all ſinners *ſalute* Her, *their* Patroneſs, Refuge and Advocate; and with what *Extaſies* of ſpiritual Joy, *Gods people are* repleniſhed, for this comfortable *birth*, of the *Mother of* JESUS, the ſpouſe of the holy Church; of the *Empreſs* of the World, the *Gate* of Heaven, the *throne* of Mercy, the *Ladder* of Jacob, the *Morning ſtar* of grace, peace and ſalvation; of Her, who ſhall bring forth JESUS, *the author, and finiſher of our bleſſed Hope.*

39. Affect. *My ſoul, what canſt thou return to God, for the Wonderful gift this day beſtowed on thee? and the incomparably greater, therein prepared for thee? Welcome* O Divine Mother of JESUS! O immens pledge of Gods Love and Mercy, to ſinful Man! *Let all Creatures put off their weeds of ſorrow, and put on garments of Mirth; and with Loud Acclamations of joy, ſing*, Bleſſed be this new-born Babe, the Mother of JESUS, in whom all nations ſhall be bleſſed.

40. *Reſolv.* I do from this *moment*, acknowledge Thee, *O divine Infant*! to be the *Adoptive Mother* of my heart, the *Queen* of my Affections, and the *Empreſs* of all the powers of my ſoul; and therefore I will dayly pay unto Thee, the

moſt

moſt cordial *Homages* of my Love, *Congratulations, and Eminent ſervitude, Obſervance and ſupplication*; and will in all my ſpiritual Combats, afflictions and Diſtreſſes, have a confident *recourſe*, unto thy bowels of *Mercy*, as a *Child* to his *Mother*, as a *ſinner* to the *Mother of* JESUS, and as an *Out-caſt*, baniſhed the houſe of my Eternal Father, unto his *Patroneſs*, *Refuge* and *Advocate*; Becauſe God, who hath even now been ſo abundantly liberal to Thee, (in pouring forth his Treaſures of Grace into thy ſoul, thro' thy preordination to be the *Mother of* JESUS,) will deny no requeſt, offered to thee, *in his Name.*

The Praiſe.

41. HAil *Mary*: n. 22.

The Hymne.

42. *THe Morning ſtar doth ſpread its ray,*
The ſun e're long will make clear day:
Welcome great Mary, Herald of Peace:
Rich ſpring of Grace, which never ceaſe.
This new-born-Light, which chears our Earth;
Sums the worlds bleſſings, in her Birth;
Gods Mother is this day reveal'd,
Heav'ns Treaſures are in her Unſeal'd.
Glory to JESUS: n. 23.

43. ANth. *Who is ſhe, that cometh forth, as the dawning of the Day, beautiful as the Moon, choſen as the Sun?* Pſalm. 44.

Pſalm. 44.

MY heart ſhall Power forth words of Joy: becauſe *Mary*, the *Mother* of *JESUS* is born.

Above all Women, beautifull is *Mary*; Grace is ſpread thro' her ſoul.

Rejoyce, triumph, and advance: for thou art *Amiable*; and acceptable to God our *King*.

Juſtice, Truth and Meekneſs are thy *Ornaments*; the hand of God hath Wrought them in Thee.

Every Creature ſhall Bleſs the hour of thy *birth*: becauſe *JESUS* covets thy *beauty*.

Glory be to *JESUS*. n. 14.

Anth. *Who is ſhe?*

V. *Mary, the Mother of* JESUS *is born.*

R. *Let heavens and earth ſing forth her praiſe.*

Let us Pray.

GRant *unto us, thy ſervants, O Lord, thy gifts of heavenly Grace, that the Birth of holy* Mary *may encreaſe our acceptableneſs unto thee, ſince thy ſon* JESUS, *who was born of her, is the beginning of our ſalvation: thro' the ſame* JESUS *Chriſt our Lord,* Amen.

THE FOURTH CONTEMPLATION.

At Tierce.

The Preſentation Of the Mother of *JESUS.*

44 *Conſid.* 1. That holy *Mary*, from the hour of her Birth, ſtill encreaſing in Wiſdome, Grace and good Works, *before God and Man*, untill the Age of three years; did then reſolve to Conſecrate her ſoul, and whole *Life* to God, by performance of the moſt ſublime works of divine Worſhip and *Extatick Love*; Therefore ſhe purpoſes to *Aſcend* unto Gods Holy *Temple*, therein to Sequeſter her ſelf from all humane converſation, to converſe with the Immortal *Angels*, and to fit her ſelf to the divine Myſteries, which God decreed to Work, in her, and by her, for the comfort of

of the *Saints* and Angels. Theſe were her frequent *Vows* in her infant years, made to God, in her uſual conferences with him, by Contemplation and Prayer; Theſe were her earneſt *Petitions* to her holy parents in that her early age, ſeconded with rare examples of Modeſty, Piety, and her other excellent Vertues; as ſo many effectual arguments, of her future Greatneſs. Now therefore, doth this *Earthy Angel* leave *Nazareth*, as the Image of the *Worlds Mutability*; and ſupported by the wings of a moſt paſſionate *Love of God*, and a deſire to be *United* with him, ſhe walketh to *Jeruſalem*, the *Seat* of divine Worſhip, the *Center* of Religion, and the *Figure* of the Viſion of true Peace. With what *Alacrity* doth ſhe abandon her fathers houſe, her *Uſual* converſation, all her *Friends* and Relations? With what Pious *Diſcourſes* doth ſhe entertain Her *Parents*, in this her firſt Viſible *Pilgrimage* to God? With what *Sighs* and Languiſhing doth her ſoul melt, thro' her longing to converſe *Solitarily*, with heaven; and to treat with God, concerning his *Illapſes* of grace, and her *Salies* of Love? Behold, how the *Heavens* ſmile upon this their *Queen*, and invite her to purſue her Voyage to Gods Sanctuary? How the *Angels*, on all ſides, flock about her, to View their *Empreſs*, the Mother of *JESUS*, and *Patroneſs* of ſinners; with what Joy, her devout parents haſten, to obey *Gods Call*, do deprive themſelves of this rich *Cabinet* of Grace, to dedicate unto God their *Only* Child? We ſhould learn hence, to *Conſecrate*

unto God, the firſt-fruits of our reaſon and will, early to *Accuſtome* our ſouls to heavenly Contemplation, and holy actions, and to *Spend* our whole lives and Loves on God and his Commandments; becauſe we are wholly His, he moſt deſerves our Loves, and He offers moſt for them.

45. *Conſid.* 2. How holy *Mary*, being now entred *Hieruſalem*, longeth to aſcend up to Gods *Sacred Temple*, to be admitted into his *Sanctuary*, to converſe with Him near to his *Oracle*, in the place he appointed for his own *Worſhip*, and the *Sanctification* of his choſen people. Now therefore being arrived to the ſteps of *Gods Temple*, behold how ſhe climes, by thoſe fifteen *Myſtical Aſcents*, up to *Gods Houſe*; on each ſhe ſings forth a *Gradual Pſalm*, and Contemplates on the ſeveral Myſteries of Her *Roſary*, and being arrived to the higheſt ſtep of *Myſtical Perfection*, ſee, with what earneſtneſs to be with God, ſhe enters the *Temple*, proſtrates before his *Altars*, dedicates Her ſoul to *God*, and begs of the *Chief Prieſt* to be admitted into the Society of thoſe *Holy Women*, who watched and prayed by the Holy *Arke*, whence God delivered his *Oracles*. Her parents, without queſtion, had great *Conflicts*, to part with this holy *Maid*, and their *Only* Child, at this *Age*; ſo admirable in Beauty, Wiſdome and Grace; but nothing can be *Too Rich* for God, whoſe *Wonders* were Viſible in Her; therefore they chearfully *Offer up* this rich Treaſure to God, by the hand of the *High Prieſt*; and therewith

with do expropriate themſelves, of what ever is deareſt to them, in this World. The *Oblation* ſurely, is highly acceptable to Heaven, conſidering *What* is offered, *by whom*, in *what flames*; and to *what End*. The *Offerings* of *ſinners*, returning to God by *Repentance*, are moſt pleaſing to Him; much more acceptable are the *Offrings of the Saints*, full of Love, Zeal and good Works; for God ſtill, *firſt regards the Giver, then the Gift:* Here, S. *Joachim* and St. *Anne* offer holy *Mary*, their *only* Child, by the hand of the *High* Prieſt; Called, Conſecrated and Anointed by Almighty *God*, to ſerve him in his *Temple*; to offer *Sacrifice* on his Altars, to power forth prayers before the *Oracle*; and Holy *Mary*, full of Grace, *Flaming* with divine Love, and *Adorned* with all Vertues, both joyning in the active *Oblation*, and Tranſcendent affections, to God; The *Gift* here offered, is not the *Fleſh* or *Blood* of beaſts, the fineſt *Flower* or ſweeteſt *Incence*; but 'tis the *Body*, *Soul*, and rich *Heart* of *Mary*; who ſurpaſſeth *Men* and *Angels*, in Grace and Sanctity: What Admiration Tranſported the hearts of all preſent, at this ſtupendious *Preſentation?* To behold the fervour, joy and Alacrity which from all ſides concurred in this *Perfect Expropriation* of her Parents, *Vows* rendred by *Mary*, *Dedication* by the High Prieſt, and *Reception* by that holy Community: the *Quires* of Angels ſinging forth a joyfull *Anthiem*; *Who is ſhe that thus Aſcendeth flowing with delights, and repoſing upon her beloved?* Our duty is, from hence, to conſider; what bleſſings accompany,

accompany, parents *Offring* up their Children, to Gods ſervice; for 1. God then *Owns* them, as ſpecially His own; 2. *Appoints* a ſpecial Angel, as a Centinel upon them; 3. *Prepares* an Inheritance in his own houſe, for them; 4. *Powreth* his Treaſures of Illuſtrations and Graces, into their hearts; 5. Carefully *Guards* them, againſt Satan; 6. And *Guids* them in their Pilgrimage, to a moſt eminent degree of Holineſs and Perfection; as is manifeſt in holy *Mary*, and an Innumerable *Train* of Glorious Saints.

46. *Conſid.* 3. How ſacred and ſublime the *Exerciſes* of *Holy Mary* were, in the *Sanctuary* of Gods Temple, for the ſpace of *Twelve years*, which ſhe ſpent there; for *Love is ever active*, but when *Guided* by a perpetual *Ray* of divine Light, *Actuated* by a *Fulneſs* of Grace, and Innocency, and *Cheriſhed* by a reſtleſs *Contemplation* of the Majeſty, Beauty, and Amiableneſs of God, then *Love* ſets the whole *Soul on Fire*, employs all its *Powers* in divine duties, and applyeth all *Vertues*, to purſue their Proper objects, by moſt *Hervick Operations*. Thus the *Life of holy* Mary *was one perpetual act* of Moſt intenſe Love towards God, deriving its ſelf, into the ſeveral *Channels*, of the faculties of her ſoul; and making its ſeveral *Salies*, on Theological and Moral *Objects*; by applying their ſeveral Vertues, to purſue them, thro' the *Impulſe* of Gods ſupernatural *Amiableneſs*; ſo that, tho' her heart was ever *Fixed* upon God, by Meditation and Love; yet did ſhe exerciſe

exerciſe her ſelf in all other *Holy Actions*, of *Faſts*, *Watchings*, *Prayer*, *Reading*, preparing ſacred *Ornaments*, dreſſing the *Altars*, and renewing her *Vowes* of *perpetual obedience*, *Poverty and Chaſtity*; whereby to *quicken* her faith, to *ſtrengthen* her Hope, and to *enflame* her Love towards God. She was ſtill preſent in the *Temple*, at the *hours* of divine praiſe and ſacrifice; yet ever within her ſelf, converſing with God, by *Extatick Introverſions*; even *ſleeping*, *her heart watched* in the Contemplation of her Glorious and Amiable *Spouſe*; in ſending up *Meſſages* of Love, and adoration to the *Court* of heaven; and in entertaining the *Seraphims*, coming with *Embaſſeys* of Love, from the heavenly *Paradice*; and in returning them with the *Miſſives* of Enflamed deſires, of a *Heart Languiſhing* with Love. Oh! Could we have been admitted, to View Divine *Mary*, in thoſe *Raviſhing* Solitudes, we then might have ſeen her, *Environed* with a ſacred flame, iſſuing forth her amorous and *Extatick* ſoul; *Elevated* on the wings of *Seraphims*, *Seated* on the Moon, *cloathed* with the Sun, and *Crowned* with Twelve Stars; and entertained by unexpreſſible *Melodies* of the ſeveral *Quires* of Angels, ſinging forth their *Alleluja's* to the *Mother of* JESUS, their *Queen*, and our *Patroneſs*. Thus doth God treat his beloved *Servants*, but none with that *plenty* of heavenly favours, as H. *Mary*, the *Mother of beautifull Love*. This amorous life of *holy Mary*, theſe over-flowing bounties of *her beloved*, ſhould ſtrongly

ſtrongly invite us, *early*, *fervently*, *everlaſtingly* to conſecrate our ſouls, paſſions and Motions to *God*, as the *Center*, *Byaſſe*, and *impulſe* of our Life; His *Majeſty* doth challenge it, our *duties* require it, and His *bounty* will reward it, above what we can *hope*, or *apprehend*.

47. Affect. *How happy are thoſe ſouls, who have preſerved the* firſt ſtole *of their Baptiſmal Innocency, have early entred Gods houſe, and therein Conſecrated to* JESUS, *the* firſt-fruits *of their Reaſon and Will; the whole* Tree *of their affections; and the field of their Hearts; to be tilled, watred, and guarded by his Divine Spirit! Thy Tents are holy,* O God of Hoſts, *bleſſed are they who abide within them, who feed on Thee by Love, who walk by thy lights, move by thy Laws and Graces: and repoſe in thee, by a conformity of Will to thine! My ſoul hath coveted Thee,* our Lord, *in the night of my ſenſual deſires; Ah that thou wouldeſt lead me to the Tabernacles of the Shepheards, where the Juſt give glory to thy Name, and the Righteous do love Thee!*

48. *Reſol.* I will, without delay, *ſhake off* all earthly Impediments of Sanctity; will *haſten* up to *Hieruſalem* in Imitation of *Holy Mary*, and *enter Gods houſe*, and will in ſome private ſolitude, preſent *by Her* my heart, its paſſions, and motions to *JESUS*; ſo that hereafter, no *earthly Creature* ſhall poſſeſs any part of my Affections; and therefore will I *ſearch* my ſoul, *conſider* its preſent ſtate, and will *empty* it of all ſin, and ſinfull inclinations; and I will adorn it with *fruits of worthy Repentance*, that *JESUS* may *lodge* therein,

in, may *ſpeak* to me words of peace, and *lead* me forth to the Contemplation of his Mercies. *I am thine O* JESUS, ſave my ſoul from the Shipwrack of ſin, and I ſhall be ever with thee.

The Prayſe.

49. HAil *Mary*: n. 22.

The Hymn.

50. HArk MARY, *pure and ſpotleſs Dove*;
Ariſe, make haſt, God is in Love:
Sweet Child, 'tis Spring, the Flowers appear,
Haſt to the Temple, God lives there.

He craves, who gave; *O, give him All*;
Fly, Child; *leave Earth, ſoar Up, Heav'n Calls:*
Thy Life's all Spring, thy Soul's all Love:
Soar Up, fair Angel, God lives above.
Glory to JESUS: n. 23.

51. ANth. *Ariſe my beloved, my beautiful One*; *take thy reſt in the hallows of the Rock, in the Caves of the deſert.*

Pſalm. 44.

MY *Child* harken, behold and give ear unto me, and forget thy People, and the Houſe of thy Parents.

Ariſe, for the *King of Glory* covets thy beauty.

He is thy *God*, all ſhall Worſhip thy *Son* ✠*ESUS*.

Righteouſneſs is Thy *Inheritance*, therefore ſhall *Nations* purſue the Odours of thy Vertues.

Inward Glory becomes the *Mother of* ✠*ESUS*, her outward Garments are deckt with Variety of *Jewels*.

Early, ſhall *Virgins* follow thy Examples, and ſhall aſſemble in the Temples of the Almighty.

Glory be to ✠*ESUS*: n. 24.

ANth. *Ariſe my Beloved.*

V. *Encreaſe in Grace and Beauty, O H. Mary.*
R. *Advance proſperouſly, and be our Queen.*

Let us pray.

O *All Powerful, and Everliving God, I moſt humbly deſeech Thy Divine Majeſty, that as the Sacred Virgin, (whoſe Fleſh thou did'ſt aſſume to thy Divinity), preſented her ſelf unto Thee, in thy Holy Temple: So, our ſouls, being purified from all uncleanneſs of ſin, we may be preſented to thee in the Temple of thy everlaſting Glory; who liveſt for ever.* Amen.

THE

THE FIFTH CONTEMPLATION.

At Sext.

The Annuntiation Of the Mother of JESUS.

52. *Conſid.* 1. How the joyful *Moment* drawing neer, in which God was reſolved, graciouſly to deliver ſinful Man, from the *Slavery of Satan*, to open the *Gates of Heaven*, and to eſtabliſh a *laſting Peace* with Man, ſo earneſtly deſired by Men and Angels, ever ſince *Adam's Apoſtacy* from Paradice, and Baniſhment into this Wilderneſs of Temptations, Miſeries and Dangers; wherein ſo many Millions have utterly periſhed; *Holy Mary* is choſen by the *Holy Trinity*, to be the great *Inſtrument* of Mans Redemption; ſuch was her Innocency, Holyneſs of Life, and Love

towards God; that God the *Father* decreed her to be the *Mother of* JESUS; God the *Holy Ghoſt* choſe her to be his Spouſe; and the *Son of God*, would become the *Son of Mary*; For the divine *Word Conſubſtantial* to the Father, and with him the coeternal *Beginning* of the Holy Ghoſt, will *aſſume* her fleſh, by an *Hypoſtatical Union*, to a *ſubſiſtency* in his own Divine *Perſon*; and by *Mary*, will become *Man*; both to *dignify* our nature, by that Union, and the immens Priviledges thereunto annexed, of Grace, Glory, and Intimacy with God; And to *redeem* our Nature, by giving us a Law of Peace, by *ſhedding* his reconciling blood, and by *Eſtabliſhing* Sacraments of Grace. To this End, a *Seraphim* is ſent from the Court of the Holy *Trinity*, as an extraordinary *Embaſſadour*, to requeſt her conſent, for the accompliſhing theſe *ineffable Myſteries*. Wherein we may admire Gods admirable Love to wards Holy *Mary*; 1. In chooſing *Her*, amongſt all Women, to be *Mother of* JESUS; and thereby to be a moſt effectual *Inſtrument* of our Redemption, to be a moſt powerful *Advocate* for our Sanctification, and to be a moſt *tender Mother* to Us, in all tribulation. 2. In ſending *unto her a Seraphim*, for the *Annouincing* the *Incarnation* of the *Son* of God; and thereby making *Her* the *Queen* of Angels, the *Patroneſs* of Man, and the *Mother* of JESUS. 3. In the referring the *Execution* of this Myſtery, to her acceptance; and thereby admitting her to a *conſultive* and *deciſive ſuffrage* in Gods Councels; in declaring mans perfect *free will*,

in

in the execution of the moſt effectuall decrees of our *Predeſtination*, *Election* and *Sanctification*; and in manifeſting his readyneſs to promote our Spiritual happineſs, if we conſent to his divine *Lights* and *Callings*. 4. And in preparing *Her*, with a *copious Train* of ſupernatural perfections, ſutable to that *Excellency* he deſigned for her, by the *Seraphims* Meſſage; and thereby *Qualifying* her, with Graces and Honours, above all *pure Creatures*, raiſing her generative facnlties, to *cooperate* with the *Holy Ghoſt*, in the production of the *Body of* ℱESUS; and in deſigning her to be the *Mother of* ℱESUS, in the fulneſs of time, who was from Eternity the *Splendour of God*, the *Image of the Father*, and the *conſubſtantial Character* of his Glory.

53. *Conſid.* 2. What the condition of *H. Mary* was, at this ſudden *Apparition*, *Commiſſion*, and *Annunciation* of *Gabriel*, the Seraphim; ſhe had for *twelve Years* continued in the Temple, in the Exerciſes of *divine Contemplatirn*, *extatick Love*, and *Religious Obſervance*; being deſigned the *Mother of* ℱESUS, ſhe is inſpired to become the *Spouſe of Joſeph*. To be a *Witneſs* of her Purity, to *ſerve* JESUS, and to *accompany* both, in their travels; and with him, ſhe is retired to *Nazareth*: There, in a *mean and humble* State, ſhe applies her ſelf to her uſual Exerciſes of the Contemplative Life, wherein ſhe is, without interruption, converſant *with God*, full *of God*, abſorpt *in God*. In this poſture the Angel *finds* her, in her ſolitary Retreat; *Enters* with dread and veneration; *ſalutes* her, in the name

name of the holy Trinity, *Hail, full of Grace*; and delivers his *Embaſſy*, *Our Lord is with Thee*; Chaſt *Mary* was ſurprized. 1. at the ſight of an *Angel*, in that her retirement: 2. To hear ſo illuſtrious a *ſalutation*, in her humble condition: 3. And to underſtand ſo immediate a *preſence* of God, above her wonted converſation; For, tho' the Angels words did not openly diſcover the Myſtery, yet by divine Inſpiration, ſhe perfectly comprehended the depth of their meaning; *Whether ſhe would accept to be the Mother of* JESUS; She had vowed her *Virginity*, a Sacrifice to God; now doth God invite her to be his *Mother*. She prudently conſiders the Obligation of a *Vow to God*, and of a *Counſel from God*; and hath ſo high a Value for her *Vow*, that ſhe ſubmiſſively craves, rather *not to be the Mother of God*, than to violate her *Covenant with God*; unleſs both may ſtand together; Therefore ſhe endeavours to enform her ſelf, How this great *Myſtery* is to be performed, that ſhe may ſave her *Vow*, and ſecure her *Duty* to the Holy Trinity. The *Seraphim* clears all Scruples; Tells her, That the Holy *Ghoſt* only, ſhall joyn with *her*, in the *Generation of* JESUS. What a *chain of Wonders* are here exhibited to our Conſideration! One of the *higheſt Seraphims* doth Homage to *Mary*, even before ſhe accepts to be the *Mother of* JESUS; While *Gabriel* ſpeaks *without*, God teacheth *within*, the meaning of this moſt Illuſtrious *Embaſſy*; *Mary* rather chuſeth to be Faithful to her *Vow*, even to the refuſing a *diſpenſation* from Heaven

Heaven therein; then with its breach, to become the *Mother of* JESUS; The *Holy Ghoſt* eſpouſeth *Mary*, and will ſo actuate her *generative* facuities, that ſhe ſhall be a *Virgin-Mother* of *God-Man.*

54. *Conſid.* 3. How *MARY*, being exactly inform'd, by *outward* Revelation, and *inward* inſpiration, of the ſubſtance and circumſtances of the *Myſtery*, Announced unto her, not puffed up, with her *fulneſs* of Grace, *Homage* of a *Seraphim*, offered *dignity* of the *Mother* of JESUS, and *Eſpouſals* by the *Holy Ghoſt*; humbly Anſwers; *Behold the Hand-maid of our Lord, Be it unto me, as thou haſt ſaid:* Wherein we have a moſt plentiful *Treaſure of divine Documents:* 1. That if God inviteth Us to a State of Perfection, we calmly *examine* the Subſtance thereof, and the means how it may be beſt performed, and readily *Anſwer, Behold the Servant of my God:* 2. How ever hard the *State*, or *charge* be, whereunto God Calls us, *promptly* to Obey, *cheerfully* to bear with all Inconveniences, and *perſeverantly*, to perſiſt in its Duty, truſting in the protection of God, who *calls*, and *accompliſheth* Us, and whoſe Work it is, 3. What ever *Lights*, *Graces*, *Wonders*, God worketh *in Us*, or *by Us*, ever to keep our Souls in a *Station* of Humility; accounting all our good Deeds, the *Gifts* of his *Mercy*. 4. That we delay not the *Performance*, of what we know to be according to *God's Will*; eſpecially, when *our Neighbours* happineſs is concerned therein; but ſay with Holy *Mary*, *Be it done:* 5. When we

are convinced, of any *Truth* revealed, or *Duty* implied, by the Authority of the *Catholick* Church, ſpeaking to Us, by the *chief Paſtor*, or his ſubordinate *Miniſters* of *Evangelical* Grace, *holding Communion* with Him; That we delay not our *Aſſent* or *Submiſſion*, as as to God's ſpecial *Call*; but ſtill to ſay, *Be it done, as thou haſt ſaid*; for He who Calls for our Aſſent, and Obedience, will effectually help Us in our Performance. Thus, Holy *Mary* having declared *Her acceptance* of God's Offer; and ſaid, *Be it unto me, as thou haſt ſaid*; The *Word was made Fleſh*; So that, As God's (*Fiat,*) *Let it be:* Created *Heaven* and *Earth*, *Men* and *Angels*, *Light* and *Elements:* And the Prieſts (*Fiat,*) *This is my Body:* Converts the Subſtance of *Bread* and *Wine*, into the *Body* and *Blood* of ✠*ESUS*: So *Maryes* (Fiat,) *Be it unto me*; bringeth down the *Holy Ghoſt*, forth the *Boſome* of God the Fathers Love, into the *center* of *Mary*'s Heart; and in the ſame *moment* he eſpouſeth Her, and quickneth Her with ✠*ESUS*, *God-Man*; by ſelecting the choyceſt *drops of Blood*, forth her Heart, and in an *Inſtant* tranſporting them, by a chaſt *concurrence* of her Generative powers, into her moſt pure *Womb*; where with, in the *ſame moment*, He frameth, the *Heart*, *Liver* and *Brain*, with all their ſubſervient *Organs*, fitted for a Rational life; into which God infuſed a moſt *Illuſtrious Soul*, in the *ſame inſtant* created; and the *Holy Trinity*, in that very *Minute of time aſſumeth* this Wonderful *Child*, to an *Hypoſtatical Union* with the Second *Perſon* of the Holy

Holy *Trinity*; and thus *Mary*, is the *true Mother of* JESUS, Man and God, in the ſame Perſon of the divine Word, in that *very inſtant*, wherein ſhe finiſhed her Aſſent, to this great and ſtupendious Myſtery, by theſe words, *Be it unto me, as thou haſt ſaid*; and is endowed with a new Stock of divine *Gifts*, and Prerogatives, ſuitable to Her *new Honour* of being the *Mother of* JESUS; and thereby, a moſt eminent *inſtrument* of the *Redemption* of the World, *Overthrow* of the kingdom of Satan, and *Re-eſtabliſhment* of the Empire of God, over Man and Angels.

55. Affect. *Thou art moſt Amiable*, O divine Mary! *for the King of Glory hath coveted thy beauty*; *The Seraphims court Thee, the Holy Ghoſt hath eſpouſed Thee*; *and at thy Word, the Word of God is made Fleſh in Thee, and Thou art become the* Mother of JESUS, *Queen of Angels, and Patroneſs of Man-kind.* O ſtupendious Word of Mary! *Whereby a Virgin becomes a Mother, Man is God, and Sinners may become the Sons of God. Be thou ever, my moſt Gracious Mother*, O Powerful Mary; *Say the Word, and the Holy Ghoſt will eſpouſe my heart alſo, and regenerate* JESUS *in me*; *O, ſay the Word! Thou art able to work this innovation of my Soul, becauſe thou art the* Mother of JESUS; *and thou art willing, becauſe thou art the* Mother of Mercy and beautiful Love; *and doſt pitty, and love thoſe, who are regenerated in the blood of* Jeſus, *derived from thy ſacred Veins. Reject me not*, O Divine Mother, *for whom* JESUS *ſhed that Blood, be received of thee*; *who have been*

fed with the Fleſh, he aſſumed of thee; who, in Saint John, *was by* JESUS *recommended unto Thee.*

56. *Reſol.* I do firmly purpoſe, from this very *moment*, often to *ſalute* thee, *full of Grace, O Mother of* JESUS; with the Illuſtrious *Seraphim*; and will congratulate Thee, for thy Eminent Glory, of being Elected to be the *Mother of* JESUS; and my Happineſs therein, of being the *adoptive Son* of the *Mother of* JESUS; and as ſuch, I will open unto thy Bowels of Mercy, all my *Miſeries and Wants*, all my *deſires and hopes*, all my *joys and comforts*, now, and in the hour of my Death; and therefore, I will daily Salute thee with a *Roſary* of the *ſeven* chief *Myſteries* of thy Life; in honour of the *Seventy-Two* Years of her Age, *viz.* Of thy *Immaculate Conception, Birth, Preſentation, Annunciation, Parturition of Chriſt, Joy in his Reſurrection*, and thy *Glorious Aſſumption*; That I may, by Thee, obtain a perfect *Compunction*, for all my Sins, an *eaſy death*, and *ſweet reſt* in everlaſting Peace, through thy beloved Son JESUS.

The Praiſe.

57. HAil *Mary*: n. 22.

The

The Hymn.

58. *HEavens Deed is ſeal'd, the Seraph's come;*
Hail Mary, *Mother of God's Son!*
Thy Womb is Heaven, there God is Man;
His All, our Nothing, joyn'd in one ſpan.

BE IT: works Wonders; Maid and Mother;
God is Man, JESUS our Brother:
See, how the Seraphs Homage pay;
To GOD, who in thy Womb doth lay.
Glory to *JESUS.* n. 23.

59. ANth. *The Angel* Gabriel *is ſent to* Mary: *Hail full of Grace; the Holy Ghoſt ſhall ſhade Thee, and thou ſhalt conceive, and bring forth JESUS.*

Pſalm. 86.

MAgnificent are thy Foundations, *O City of God:* They are laid on the higheſt Mountains.

Above all the Tabernacles of *Jacob:* God hath loved the *gates of Sion.*

Rejoyce *O Mary,* thou *City of JESUS;* for glorious Things are reported of thee.

In Thee, Sinners and ſtrong Nations ſhall ſeek their *Refuge,* when they know thy Glory.

Every Tongue ſhall ſpeak thy Praiſe; be-

cauſe the God of *glory* and *peace* hath taken his Reſt in thee.

Glory be to *JESUS*. n. 14.

Anth. THE *Angel* Gabriel.

V. *Hail* Mary, *full of grace.*
R. *Our Lord JESUS is with Thee.*

Let us Pray.

O *God, who, (The Angel declaring it, unto* Mary,*) didſt aſſume Fleſh in her ſacred Womb; grant unto Us, thy moſt humble Suppliants, that We, who believe her to be the True Mother of* God, *may ever be Aided by thee, thro' Her Interceſſions; Thro' JESUS Chriſt our Lord.* Amen.

THE

THE SIXTH CONTEMPLATION.

At None.

The Visitation Of the Mother of JESUS.

60. *Consid.* 1. How, *Divine Mary*, hitherto trained up to the several Perfections of the *contemplative LIFE*; being, by her new Excellency of the *Mother of* JESUS, the *Sanctifier* of Men and Angels, and the *Reconciler* of both to God, called to an *Active Life*, for the promoting of that our *Sanctification* and *Reconcilement* thro' JESUS; she begins early to enter upon this *Charge*, still preferring her Duty to God's *call*, above the *private* delights of her solitary Conversation with God. No sooner therefore, is the *Mystery* of God's *Incarnation*,

finiſhed by the *Holy Ghoſt* in her Womb, and the *Seraphim* departed forth her *Cabinet*, but *Shee*, with her devout Spouſe S. *Joſeph*, begins her Journey, over the Mountains of *Judea*, to S. *Elizabeth* her Kins-woman, Wife to the great Prieſt *Zacharie*, now *Six* Months with-Child of S. *John Baptiſt*, the Herald of Peace, ſent to Proclaim the *Advent of* JESUS, the *approach* of the Kingdom of God, & the *opening* of the *Goſpel of Grace*. Thus JESUS, the Son of *God*, cometh to *John* the Son of *Man*; Thus JESUS, no ſooner enters the world, but he haſtens to enter upon his Works of *Mercy* and *Sanctification*; Thus, the *Mother* of God, Viſits the *Mother* of a pure Man; Thus the *Holy Spirit* of God, who even now quickned *Her* with JESUS, quickens *Her*, to convey JESUS unto *John*, that JESUS may Sanctifie *John*, three Months before his *Birth*. Which in Holy *Mary* gives Us eminent Marks of her moſt excellent *Humility*, *Patience* and *Charity*; 1. Her *Humility* in the Act of her Viſitation, of One far beneath Her in all perfections; 2. Her *Patience*, in her Voyage, long, rough and paynful to a tender *Lady*; 3. Her perfect *Charity*, in haſtning, to comfort *Elizabeth*, to Sanctify *John*, and to Publiſh the approach of JESUS, by this his firſt and early *Act of Grace* to Man. Whence we have *three Excellent Documents*; 1. To be *Officious* to all Perſons, even of the meaneſt rank; 2. Not to be *deterred* from the Holy Duties of our calling, by any contradictions or difficulties; 3. Earneſtly to *endeavour* the Converſion of

Sinners

Sinners, and the *Conſolation* of the afflicted.

61. *Conſid.* 2. That Holy *Mary* (tho' the *Mother* of *JESUS*, the *Queen* of Angels, and the *Patroneſs* of Mortals,) is not attended by numerous traines of Coaches, Guards and Servants; but contents her ſelf, with her humble *Spouſe* St. *Joſeph*; and his mean proviſion, for neceſſary expences in this holy *Pilgrimage*; Thus *Viſibly* is Divine *Mary* accompanied! But *Inviſibly* within, ſhe hath *JESUS*, *without*, ſhe hath troops of Angels, *guarding* her on all ſides, ready to *ſupport* her on their Wings, every where *Officiouſly* preparing for her Welcome. Thus attended, Divine *Mary* ſets forth; She carrieth *JESUS* in her Womb, and is ever *abſorpt* in the Boſome of *JESUS*, by contemplation of this his *extaick Love* to Man; by *Sallies* of Love, and *Embracements* of enflamed deſires towards *JESUS*; by conferences, concerning theſe Heavenly comforts, with S. *Joſeph*: Thus *Mary* Walks amids Angels; carries in her, and confers with, the God of Men and Angels; haſtens towards a family of *Earthly Angels*, *Zachary*, *Elizabeth* and *John*; who would not deſire, to *enter* this Pilgrimage, with this *Sacred* Society, to ſo *holy* a Family, amids thoſe *Divine* Flames of Love! Such ſhould our *Converſation* be, in all the actions of our Life; We are *Pilgrimes* to God, he hath given Us *Angels* to guard us; *JESUS himſelf* is with Us, till the conſummation of the World; by his *Spirit* guiding Us to all Truth, by his Grace cleanſing Us from all Sin, and enflaming Us to the Love

of

of Heaven; and by his *Divine Flesh*, *Sacrificed* dayly for Us, and *Sacramentally* eaten by Us; therefore should our thoughts be ever *fixt* on God, and our hearts *employed* in Divine Duties, and our Conversation *be with Gods* Servants, in holy Places, about Divine Duties; Then will *JESUS* and *Mary* joyn company with Us, the *Angels* will guard Us; and the *Saints* above with God, will *pray* for Us, and *welcome* Us to their Heavenly Habitations, whither we *aime* by Faith, *climb* by Love, and *hasten* by Obedience.

62. *Consid.* 3. How the *Mother of JESUS*, being now arrived to the House of Holy *Zachary*, is welcomed by that *Family of Saints*; how *Joseph* salutes *Zachary*; *Mary Elizabeth*, and *JESUS John*; and therewith do dispence special favours of Grace upon them, thro' the bounty of *JESUS*, the Chief *Guest*; but especially in regard of S. *John*, the principal person Visited. For no sooner doth Holy *Mary* enter the House of *Zachary*, but *JESUS* smiles on *John*, streams forth Grace of *Sanctification* into his Soul, for his expurgation from Original sin; *Revelation* of his Sacred presence, as of the longed for *Messias*; and his promotion to the several Dignities of a *Prophet* of the New Law, a *Herald* to the Prince of Peace, & a *Patriarch* of Anachorets; and poureth into him, the plentiful *Gifts* of Wisdome, Grace and Fortitude; whereby to enable Him, to proclaim unto the World, the *Advent of JESUS*; Therefore doth S. *John* leap for Joy, in the Womb of his Mother; Therefore doth St. *Elizabeth*, in an *Ex-*

tasy

Mary of Spirit, rejoyce that the *Mother of Jesus*, gives her a Visit; and therefore doth this divine *Mother* conclude this *harmony* of Joyes, with her *Magnificat* of Love and Gratitude, for the Blessings of the Day, so amply displayed at this first rising of JESUS, the *Orient Star*, tho' yet in a Cloud, to this Sacred Family; which herein is the *Image* of the *Catholick* Church, and of the holy *Assemblies* of God's Servants. *Ah!* How oft hath JESUS visited us, in his holy House, under the Vail of his *Sacrament* of Love? how oft hath he entred our Hearts by holy *Communion*, and been our private *Guest?* how oft hath he poured forth his *Spirit of Peace* into our Souls, with design to abide for ever with us? Little Effects appear of this his admirable Bounty *to us*, and earnest desire to remain *With us*; no Blessings returned to *Mary*, the Mother, or to JESUS, the Fruit of her Womb; no rejoycing with *John*, or *Magnificat* with *Mary*; whence this *deafness*, amids such Acclamations of Joy? whence this *chilness*, amids such sacred flames of love? whence this *slowness* of Devotion, amongst these Vehement *Incentives* of Divine Love? Ah, our *self-Love*, has fill'd our hearts with *Creatures*; no entrance, no Lodging, no entertainment for *JESUS!* and therefore the *Voice* of this Divine *Turtle* hath not been heard in our *Lands*; no *flowers* of holiness, have budded forth their fragrant Odours, in our *Gardens*; No *Canticks* of Spiritual Joy, have been Sung in our *Quires*.

63. Affect. *O, who will give me the Wings of a Dove, and I will fly after my Beloved, and will crave admittance to this holy company of heavenly Pilgrims, to partake of their divine conferences, and to repose under the shade of their Sacred Tabernacles? Ah, what happiness, to walk with* Jesus and Mary? *to be visited by* Jesus and Mary? *to entertain* Jesus and Mary? *No Delights are wanting, in the Gardens of Grace; and where* Jesus *is, there be the blessings of* All Nations; *come then divine* Mary, *full of* Jesus, *that my Soul may be healed, and sanctified; and I may sing; Let my Soul Magnify my* JESUS, *and my Spirit rejoyce in my Salvation; because he hath done great Things for me; who is Powerful, and his Name is Holy.*

64. *Resol.* I will carefully enter into my heart, and search all its *corners*, and early in the Morning, I will chase forth of the house of God, all Iniquity; That my Soul may be fitted to entertain *JESUS*; Come *O Divine Mother*, bring thy *JESUS*, Visit the *house* of my Heart; *Live*, *Lodge*, *Feast there* for ever; I will Welcome Him, with Sacred *Vows* of Self-denial, with *Sacrifices* of Love, with *Confession* of Praise, and with *covenants* of endless Duty. Then will *JESUS* Sanctify me, and the *Mother of JESUS* will take me to her Protection, and the *Visitation* of the Spirit of *JESUS*, will keep my Spirit.

The

The Praiſe.

65. HAil *Mary.* n. 22.

The Hymn.

66. ARiſe rich *Queen of Love and Grace,*
Make haſt, let JOHN *ſee* JESUS *Face:*
The Babes will greet, as Mothers doe,
For JESUS *grace,* JOHN *homage ſhew.*

Proud Hills, hard Rocks, ſhrill Winds, be kind;
O, may theſe Pilgrims, calm Ways find!
God's Mother, and God's Son, draw near;
Fly Sin! JESUS *and* Mary *are here.*

Glory to *JESUS*, n. 23.

67. Anth. MAry *Viſits us, ariſing from above, and bringeth Light unto thoſe, who ſet in Darkneſs, and in the ſhades of Death, that our Steps may be directed in the Paths of Peace.*

Pſal. 10.

MY Soul hath truſted in God, *my Son:*
My *JESUS*, and my *Salvation.*
And I have ſaid, *Fly my Soul* unto the Mountains, and be likened unto the *Sparrow.*

Repreſs the Malice of the Enemy, That thy *Fore-runner* may find Sanctification.

Juſtice may walk before thy *Face*, and prepare the *Ways* of Grace and Redemption.

Excellent is *JESUS* in Holineſs, his Face will ſhine forth Equity and Mercy.

Glory be to *JESUS*. n. 14.

Ant. MAry *Viſits Us.*

V. *Riſe, and make haſt, O Mother of Jeſus.*
R. *Viſit us with thy Salvation.*

Let us Pray.

VIſit, *we beſeech Thee, O* JESUS, *our Souls, and earthly Habitations, with Holy* Mary thy Mother; *drive thence all darkneſs of Sin, and Deceits of Satan; Let thy* Angels *ever Guard and Keep us, that the* bleſſings of Peace *may always be upon us; who liveſt for ever.* Amen.

THE

THE SEVENTH CONTEMPLATION.

At Veſpers.

The Glorious Aſſumption Of the Mother of JESUS.

68. *Conſid.* 1. How the divine *Mother of* JESUS, having ſpent *Seventy two* Years, in great Variety, of *joyful*, *ſorrowful*, and *ſome glorious* Myſteries; ſometimes in *Contemplation*, and the *practice* of *ſolitary* Vertues; Then amids manifold *cares*, *fears*, and *griefs*, during the *Life* of JESUS; and from his triumphant *Reſurrection*, in moſt *heroick Acts* of divine Love, *extatick* languiſhings after the raviſhing *Embraces* of glorified JESUS; and earneſt *deſires*, to be *diſſolved* from this Mortality, *freed* from her long Baniſhment; and to be everlaſtingly *United* with God,

by Vision, Fruition, and a full Possession of that *infinite Being*, in his Kingdom of Glory: This *Seraphical Soul*, thro' a vehemency of divine Love, falls into a *Spiritual Feaver*; whereby her sacred *Heart* is set on *Fire* with transcended *Charity*, her *Body* is exhausted with the *Languishings* of a most passionate Love, and her *Blood* is enflamed by the divine *beats* of her enamoured Spirit; So that now, the *Temperament* of her *Body*, is no longer able to confine her *Soul* within its limits, from *soaring* up to the delicious Embraces of her *Beloved*. The happy Moment of her souls *flight* to Heaven being now at hand, the Apostles, are by divine Instinct assembled in *Jerusalem*, to be present at the Expiring of the *Mother of JESUS*; that *by her*, they may send up their *Messages* of Love, Congratulation, and Prayer, to their glorified *Master*; and that *over her*, they may pour forth their *Tears* of Joy, as a last *Homage* to that Sacred *Body*, *wherein*, and *of which*, God took Flesh, and became Man. *Good God!* What an admirable harmony of Joys and Sorrows was in the Hearts of this *Assembly* of Saints? What was the brightness, and fragrancy of that divine *Body?* What the amorous *pantings* and *raptures* of that Illustrious *Soul?* How penetrating and enflaming her *departing Speeches*, and last Farewel? How fervent were the *Apostles Vows*, how earnest their *Prayers*, how languishing their *Sighs? Desirous* they were of her abiding with them, for their own private Comforts; and yet *unwilling* to detain Her, from her eternal Happiness; Thus they had

earnest

earneſt wiſhes, to bear her Company, up to the glorious Pallace of JESUS, there to be preſent at the Solemnity of her *Triumphant* Reception, Coronation, and Exaltation; but mixed with an *humble Reſignation*, to expect God's gracious Time, for their freedom from this earthly Pilgrimage. *Ah!* Whoſe Heart, ſo engaged with the *Love* of this *World*, as not to be enflamed with a *reſtleſs Love* of *Vertue?* Which alone can give *true Joy* to the Souls of the Saints, can free them from the *miſerable Fetters* of Sin, Senſuality and Tribulation; and can make them *look cheerfully* upon the moſt frowning Death, as the next Diſpoſition to the *Reſurrection* of the Saints, the *paſſage* forth of Miſery, and the *Gate* of eternal Bleſſedneſs, in the *Land* of the *Living? Dye O my Soul, the death of the Juſt, that thy portion may be the Inheritance of the Children of God.*

69. *Conſid.* 2. How, The *Joyful moment* being now come, wherein this *Seraphical Soul* bids Adieu to that her *Immaculate Body*; Troops of Angels are diſpatch'd from the *Imperial Court* of Heaven, to *attend* her Paſſage, *receive* her Soul, and to *conduct* it to the preſence of God; See then, 1. How theſe glorious *Spirits*, *welcome* Her forth her earthly Pilgrimage, pay *Homage* to their Empreſs, *preſent* unto Her, their ſeveral *Dowries*, glorious *Liveries*, and *Badges* of their *Orders* and *Hierarchies*; How & with *Lights*, *Perfumes*, and melodious *Acclamations* they conduct Her, thro' the *Clouds*, *Stars*, and ſeveral *Mantions*, of the admiring Saints, up to the *Throne* of

of God, there to be *veiled* with the Sun; *crowned* with Stars, *filled* with Glory, *ſeated* above all the Quires of thoſe bleſſed Spirits, and to *receive Homage* of all the Elect, by *Proſtrations*, offrings of their Crowns, and Oblations of Perfumes, of *praiſe* and *congratulation* to the *Mother of Jeſus*. 2. The Soul of this divine Creature, being *ſeated* next to the *Throne* of the Holy *Trinity*, is there *endowed* with a Tranſcendent *Light* of divine *Viſion*, whereby She moſt clearly penetrates the *Majeſty*, *Beauty*, and *Sanctity* of God; with a moſt delicious *Flame* of conſummated *charity*, whereby ſhe is wholly *abſorpt* into God by *Love*; and with a compleat *Tenſion* or *Poſſeſſion* of that infinite *Being*, by *Extatick* embraces of God, and participation of the ſweet *ſtreams* of his overflowing Happineſs; and all theſe, in a degree of *Intenſeneſs* and *Extenſiveneſs*, above what ever *lights*, *flames* or *Unions* God diſperſeth amongſt the *Angels* and *Elect*; and according to the *whole capacity* of a *pure Creature*, 3. She is moreover ſpecially *welcomed* with Congratulations and embracements, by *God the Father*; as the *firſt of pure Creatures*, predeſtinated to Glory; by, *God the Son*, as his all *Immaculate Mother*; by *God the Holy Ghoſt*, as his choſen *ſpouſe* and undefiled *Temple*; Whereupon, the whole heavens *ring*, with loud *Acclamations* of *Joy to the Mother of Jeſus*; each *Quire* of Angels ſing forth their Hymns and Cantiques of *Glory to the Mother of Jeſus*; and all the *Elect* power forth their perfumes and ſweet Odours, as a Sacrifice of *Love and Honour*

nour to the Mother of Jeſus. Ah! whoſe ſoul ſwells not with a languiſhing deſire, to be *diſſolved*, to be preſent at this glorious *Solemnity?* to bear a part in the *Triumphs of the Mother of Jeſus! But alas!* only the *Clean of heart may ſee God*, enter his holy houſe, feed on his Glory. If thou Coveteſt the joys of the Saints, *O my Soul*, thou muſt imitate their *Vertues*, their *Combats* with ſenſuality, their *Triumphs* over ſin; Then will God *fit* us for his Glory, *free* us from our baniſhment, *admit* us to his holy houſe, where we ſhall *drink of the torrent* of his Joys, and *put* on Immortality.

70. *Conſid.* 3. That the Soul of the *Mother of Jeſus*, being aſſumed to Glory, her ſacred *Body* was not long to be deprived thereof; for tho' by the *diſpenſative* power of God, *Immaculate Mary* muſt die; yet muſt not her *body* ſuffer *Corruption*, it was not defiled with *Original* Sin, was never Subject to *Satan*, which diſobeyed *God*. Wherefore, tho' by the *Apoſtles*, her ſacred *body*, decently adorned and accompanied, be carried forth of *Hieruſalem*, and layed in a *Monument* in the *Garden* of *Gethſemany*, where Jeſus *prayed*, *ſweat* blood, was *betrayed* by *Judas*, and was *taken* by the *Jews*; yet was it not, to *reſt* long there, *ſeparated* from her glorious *Soul*: Her all-powerful *Son Jeſus*, would not permit, that *Immaculate Body* (wherein the wonderful Myſtery of the *Incarnation* was performed; that ſacred *fleſh*, which was conſubſtantial to his own; thoſe pure *bowels*,

wherein he received life, and lodged for nine months; thoſe *breaſts*, *which* he ſucked, and *at which* he ſlumber'd ſo oft, during his Infancy; and thoſe *Armes*, which tended, and ſo oft embraced *Jeſus*;) ſhould *putrify*, *diſſolved* into aſhes, and *expect* the ſound of the *Trumpet*, e're it ſhould be *cloathed* with Glory; That Glory, which was never forfeited, by any irregular motion of *Concupiſcence*, or diſorder of ſenſual *paſſions*. Wherefore, tho' it reſts in that *ſhrine* for three days, in Imitation of *Chriſts* buried body, yet is it there accompanied by the *Quires* and *Melodies* of Angels, beſet with Miraculous *lights*, garniſhed with the *flowers*, *greens*, and *perfumes* of the heavenly paradice. And now *behold*, Her Glorious *Soul*, deſcends from her Imperial *Seat* in Heaven, accompanied with *Seraphims* and chiefeſt *Saints*, and re-aſſumes that her ſacred *Body*, and therewith *aſcends* again, placeth it *above* all the Troops of the *Bleſſed*, and is endowed with the moſt Illuſtrious *Gifts* of *Incorruption*, *Charity*, *Activeneſs* and *Tranſparency*. O! What raviſhing *beauty*, incomprehenſible *brightneſs*, delicious *fragrancy*, Iſſued forth the *Immaculate fleſh* of this Divine *Mother*, at the inſtant of her Souls re-union? The *leaſt* of the Elect, in the Kingdom of God, ſhines *brighter* than the *Sun*; what then was the Clarity of the *Mother* of Jeſus, the *Queen* of Angels, and the *patroneſs* of the Saints? *whoſe body* was never defiled with *corruption* of ſin, *in whom* lodged the

the *Image* of the God of pure lights, and *of whom* the divine *Word* took fleſh, and United it to the *Hypoſtaſis* of his own *perſon?* Look up *my Soul,* behold how this Glorious Mother, 1. *Soars* up on the Wings of Angels, by the *power* of her bleſſed Soul, and by the Attractive *Charms* of the *Love* of Jeſus; 2. How ſhe is *Welcomed* at the Gates of heaven, by her *Son* Jeſus; ſuperveſted with the richeſt *Garments* of Majeſty, Glory, and Joy; and *acknowledg'd* to be the moſt eminent of all pure Creatures, in her *predeſtination, Holineſs,* and *Glory*; 3. How ſhe is *conducted* thro' all the ſeveral Troops of the Angels and Saints, *receiveth* homage *from* All, and is *placed* in Glory, Power and Majeſty *above* all; Truly *Glorious things are ſaid of thee, O City of God*; for *all the joys of the Saints abide in thee*; and the *fulneſs of the Elect, is thy poſſeſſion.*

71. Affect. *O, how beautiful are the Tents of the Saints? but none comparable to the Sanctuaries of the glorious Mother of Jeſus!* My Soul *hath conſidered them in the night of her iniquities, and hath coveted them at the dawning of the day of God's Mercies*; Bluſh unhappy Man, *thus often to have defiled the* ſtole *of thy baptiſmal Innocency, to have polluted all the* powers *of thy Soul, and* members *of thy body with the* Leproſy *of thy ſenſual paſſions*; *to have broken the* Covenants, *ſealed between thee and God, with the* precious blood of Jeſus. *But, I have a* Gracious Father, *full of Mercy and Clemency, who*

will not reject the prayers of the penitent, *nor deprive the* humble *of his promiſed pardons, regeneration by Grace, and adoption to Glory. And thou,* O moſt glorious and powerful Mother of Jeſus, *pity me, and protect me; for thou art highly acceptable to God, canſt obtain Mercys, and wilt procure a miſſion of Angels, to relieve me, that my Soul may rejoyce in thy fulneſs and bounty.*

72. *Reſolv.* I will ever *obſerve* thee, O *Divine Mother,* as the *Neareſt,* and *Dearest,* and *moſt Powerful,* amongſt pure Creatures, unto the great *God of Mercies,* thy *Son* Jeſus; and however Enormous my *Life* hath been, I will ſtill have a moſt firm Confidence, That *Jeſus,* who thus loveth *thee,* as to ſeat *thee* next to himſelf, will have compaſſion on me, if thou Vouchſafeſt to *patronize* my cauſe, and to *plead* Mercy for me. Wherefore, now, for ever, *I chuſe Thee O Glorious Mother of Jeſus, to be my Patroneſs, Advocate, and Adoptive Mother;* admit me, O powerful *Queen* of Angels, amongſt thy *Clyents:* ſuppreſs my *Enemies,* manage my *Cauſe* in the *Court* of our *Requeſts,* that I may ſteer my courſe by the *Compaſs* of Gods *Commands* and my ſacred *Vows. Ah!* permit not my *Soul* to periſh, for which thy *Son* Jeſus did ſhed thoſe precious *drops* of blood, which he received from the rich *fountain* of thy loving *Heart.*

The

The Praiſe.

73. HAil *Mary*: n. 22.

74. Ana. *Mary, the Mother of Jeſus is aſſumed into Heaven, where God ſetteth upon a Throne of Stars; Let all the Saints and Angels give glory to God on high.*

Pſal. 56.

MAy all *Nations* rejoyce, and give glory to God: Let the *bleſſed* ſing a ſong of *Joy to JESUS.*

Above all the *Quires* of Angels, the *Mother* of *Jeſus* is exalted: She is made *Queen* over all *pure* Creatures.

Rejoycings, Cantiques and *Melodious* Harmonies may ever fill our *Quires*: becauſe all people are under *Maries* power.

In Jubily and ſongs of Joy did our *Queen* of Glory aſcend: our great *Queen* in the ſound of *Trumpets.*

Ever let the *Seraphins* ſing a *Hymn* of Glory unto *Mary*: Let them ſing to the *Queen* of all Nations.

Glory be to *Jeſus*: n. 14.

Ana. MAry *the Mother*:

The Chapter.

75. I *Sought reſt in all good things, and have ever abided in the inheritance of my God; therefore did he, who created the World, preſerve me in grace, and repoſe in my Womb, and he commanded me to inherit in* Iſrael, *and hath exalted me above all the Elect.* R. To God be always glory.

The Hymn.

76. MARY *is call'd, her hour is come;*
Take leave poor Earth, Heaven muſt home.
Climb Heavenly Earth, more pure, more bright,
Than Stars, which come, to give Her light.
Hark, Mary! Jeſus *from above,*
Summons thee up; Aſcend Fair Love:
Let Angels guard, and ſtrew the Way,
While Mary *mounts to her* Noon-day.
While Seraphs ſing Hoſanna's, *We*
Will with loud wiſhes, follow Thee;
And cry, Hail Queen of humble hearts,
Thus in thy prays, wee'l have our parts.

Glory to Jeſus; n. 23.

V. The Mother of Jeſus *is aſſumed to the Kingdom of Glory.*

R. And is placed on a Throne above all the Quires *of Angels.*

Let us Pray.

PArdon the Crimes, we beſeech Thee O Lord, *of thy Servants; and grant unto us, that ſince we cannot pleaſe thee, by our own Actions, we may be ſaved by the Mediation of the* Mother of Jeſus, *our Lord; and may be aſſumed, to a participation of thy Glory: Thro'* Jeſus *Chriſt, our Saviour,* Amen.

THE EIGHTH CONTEMPLATION.

At Complin.

The Magnificent Coronation Of the Mother of *JESUS.*

77. *Conſid.* 1. How divine *Mary* the *Virgin-Mother* of Jeſus (the living *Ark* of the New Teſtament; and *abbridgment* of the perfections of all pure Creatures) being in *Body* and *Soul aſſumed* into Heaven, *ſeated* on a moſt Illuſtrious *Throne*, above all the Seraphins, next

next to the moſt Glorious *Trinity*, and *adorned* with the choiceſt Crowns, Diadems and Pearls of Glory: Is, with moſt Melodious *Harmonies*, raviſhing *fragrancies*, and loud *Acclamations*, from all the heavenly Courtiers, in their ſeveral *ranks*, and from their ſeveral *ſtations*, inaugurated, proclaimed and acknowledged, *the Queen of all pure Creatures*. Wherein is declared, the Immens *Latitude* of Gods *Love* to the *Mother of Jeſus*, and the *Exuberant* Excellency of her Innocency, Vertues and Merits. *Behold then*, 1. How the *Nine Quires* of Angels, ranked under their ſeveral moſt Illuſtrious *Leaders* and *Banners*, with Melodious Songs, delicious perfumes, and Cantiques of joy, *proſtrate* before Her Throne, pay *Homage* to her, *diſcover* unto her all the ſeveral Excellencys of their *Orders*, Their *combats* and *conqueſts*, and the Variety of their glorious *Manſions*, *Prerogatives*, and *Crowns*; and do *acknowledg* all their perfections, Happineſs and delights, to be derived *from her*, and to be due *unto her*; for as much as ſhe is the *Mother of Jeſus*; according to whoſe *Image*, and thro' whoſe *merits*, they *received* their ſeveral excellencies of nature, were *predeſtinated* to Glory, and were *repleniſhed* with gifts of *Grace* whereby to reſiſt the *Aſſaults* of Lucifer, their *Apoſtate Prince*, and the head of the heavenly Rebellion; their ſeveral *lights* of Glory and conſummated *Charity*, whereby they were *confirmed* in their duty to God, and *ſecured* of their beatitude; and the moſt excellent *Dowries* of the Viſion, fruition and

Tenſion

Tention of God, whereby they are *repleniſhed*, each in their degree, with a *fulneſs* of divine Love, *knowledge* of ſacred Myſteries, and a *Torrent* of endleſs joys. 2. Then do each *Order* of thoſe glorious ſpirits, joyntly and ſeparately, offer up unto the *Mother of Jeſus*, the ſpecial *Badges* and *Liveries* of their bleſſed companies, as a *Mark* of their ſervitude, Homage and obedience unto Her. Thus, from the *loweſt Order* of Angels, ſhe receiveth the *Badges* of her *Soveraignity* over *Men*; becauſe ſhe is acknowledged to be the *Queen*, *Of Angels*, who are the *general guards* over Mankind; *Of Arch-angels*, who are the *Special Guards* of the Nobles and Peers of the World; and *of Thrones*, who are the *particular Guards* of Soveraign Princes, Kings and Emperours. From the *Middle Order*, ſhe receiveth *Badges* of her *Soveraignity* over all *Places*, becauſe ſhe is acknowledged to be the *Queen*, *of Dominations*, who have charge of the ſeveral *Poſſeſſions*, Manners, and free-holds of *private* perſons; *of Principalities*, who have charge over the *Territories*, Royalties, and Demeans of *Free* Princes, Kings and Emperours; and *of Powers*, who have a ſpecial charge over *Armies*, Courts of Juſtice and Privy Councils. From the *higheſt Order*, ſhe receiveth *Badges* of her *Soveraignity* over all *Intellectual Perfections*; becauſe ſhe is acknowledged to be *Queen*, *of Vertues*, who have the full power over *Miracles*, Liberal Sciences, and Moral Vertues; of *Cherubims*, who have the Adminiſtration of the ſeveral ſtores

of *Wiſdom*, Natural, Theological, and Beatifical; and of *Seraphims*, who have charge over the various *diſpenſations of Grace*, Militant, Victorious and Triumphant. 3. Laſtly, *Jeſus*, by the conſent of the Holy *Trinity*, *ariſeth* from his Throne, *congratulates* her Triumph, *acknowledgeth* himſelf to be *Her* Son, *confirms* her in the Poſſeſſion, of that her higheſt *Seat* of Glory; of the *Homage* and *Badges* of the Angels; and of all the *Rights*, ſhe may Claim of Him, as a *Mother*, for the good of Mankind. This *Solemnity* being ended, all the *Quires* of Angels, again ſhout forth *Acclamations of Joy, and Glory to God, for ever and ever: Ah!* Whoſe Soul thirſts not, to *ſee*, *hear*, *taſt* the ſweetneſs of this moſt delicious Entertainment, of the Glorious *Mother of Jeſus?*

78. *Conſid.* 2. How the *Mother of Jeſus*, being thus *Crowned Queen* of all pure Creatures, by the *Miniſtery* of all theſe ſublime *Spirits*, and the *Power* of her Son *Jeſus*. 1. In Teſtimony of her *Immutability*, the *Moon* is put under her feet, as her foot-ſtool; to ſhew her *Un-intermitted* ſtate of Grace, her *continued* Victories, and her full *Dominion over* all ſublunary Creatures, allurements and tribulations, *amidſt* all Worldly Temptations, aſſaults of Satan, and fulneſs of divine Gifts. 2. In Teſtimony of her *admirable Purity*, the *Sun* is girded about her, as her Royal *Mantle*; to ſhew the *brightneſs* of her Soul, the *clearneſs* of her underſtanding, the *heats* of her Love to God, and the *Candour* of her body, and converſation;

verſation, amids the *Variety* of ſinful Creatures, ſhe converſed with on earth, and the *charmes* of ſenſual delight, and *Impediments* of divine Contemplation. 3. In Teſtimony of her *perfect poſſeſſion* of all the moſt excellent vertues, poſſible to a pure Creature, in *ſubſtance, extenſion* and *intenſion*, ſhe is crowned with a moſt Illuſtrious *Imperial Crown*, enamel'd with the choyceſt *Jewels*, decked with the moſt beautiful *Stars*, and garniſhed with moſt fragrant *flowers*; to ſhew *her* moſt *diſinterreſſed* intention, in her whole duty to God, thro' a pure *Affection of Juſtice*, without any regard to any preſent delight, or future Retribution of Glory; *Her* conſtant *Contemplation, converſation* and *Union* with God, by ſtudying his *will of good pleaſure*, obeying his *Commands*; and loving him *purely*, for his own infinitely amiable *Goodneſs, greatneſs*, and *depth* of perfection and Myſteries, having, even in her earthly pilgrimage, ſome *Glances* of a beatifical Viſion, amorous *raviſhments* into the Imperial Heaven, and *Transfigurations* into a Glorifyed *Being*, by the flames of her *Tranſcendent* and *Seraphical* Love; Her moſt *intens* Viſion, fruition and Poſſeſſion of Almighty God, clearly *manifeſted* unto her, according to the *full Capacity* of a Pure Creature, *elevated* to the higheſt degree of perfection, by the *Special* favour of *Jeſus*; wherein ſhe had a *degree* of Comprehenſion of the *Majeſty, Intellectuallity* and *Amability* of God, *above* that of all the Angels and Saints; by reaſon of a moſt *clear* Light of Glory, and

a moſt *intenſe* gift of conſummated Charity, incomparably *above* what ever is diſperſed amongſt other pure Creatures; and to ſhew the *Excellency* of the ſeveral Dowries of her *glorifyed* Body; for whereas other bleſſed Spirits are compared to the *ſeveral ſtars*, a *Collection* of the Choiceſt *Jewels*, *Stars* and *Flowers*, make up the *Emblem* of *her* moſt Illuſtrious *Crown* of Glory; encreaſed by the Splendour of the *Sun*, wherewith ſhe is *cloathed*; and from which they receive a *ſpecial* brightneſs, ray and delightfulneſs, above all the brightneſs, of the *glorifyed* bodies, of all the Saints; ſo that as the *Clarity* of the *Sun*, and of all the *Stars*, do incomparably exceed that, of any *One Star*, of an *inferiour* rank and magnitude: ſo the *Clarity* of the *glorifyed* fleſh of the *Mother of Jeſus*, is without compariſon greater, then that of all the Saints; and as each *Star* borroweth its light from the *Sun*, but ſhine not at all to us, when the *Sun* is in its *Meridian Altitude*: So all the Saints do derive *their Clarity*, from that of the *glorifyed* body of the *Mother of Jeſus*; and therefore their glory is as a *twy-light* in regard of the *Exuberant brightneſs* of the *glorious* fleſh of the *Mother of Jeſus*; and as that *All-Immaculate fleſh* of *Glorified Mary*, exceedingly ſurpaſſeth the *Clarity* of all the Saints: So alſo doth ſhe exceed them all, in its *Impaſſibility*, *Subtility* and *Agility*; by reaſon of the *Super-eminent* Purity of her *Virgin-Body*, never *ſtained* with any Uncleaneſs of *Original* ſin, never *defiled* with the Corruption

tion of any *actual* Rebellion, never *disordered* with any *irregular* Motion, or the least *breath* of carnal *Concupiſence*. Such were the ſingularly Excellent *Priviledges* of the *ever Immaculate* Virgin, Mother of *Jeſus*, above all pure Creatures; ſignifyed by her *mantle* of the *Sun*, and her Imperial Crown of *Jewels*, *Stars* and *flowers*. Wherefore, as thoſe *illuſtrious bodies* ſtream forth their bright *Rays*, thro' *ſinks*, and are not *defiled*; thro' *furnaces*, and are not *Scorched*; and thro' *Icy clouds*, and are not *congealed*: So the *glorified body* of the *Mother of Jeſus*, is ſuper-eminently *impaſſible*, both from the *contrariety* of Elements, *within*, naturally tending to each others deſtruction; and from the moſt violent *activity* of deſtructive agents, *without*: And as thoſe bodies, by their ſwift and ſearching *Influences*, do penetrate *Rocks*, *Seas*, and the *bowels* of the earth; and therein produce Wonderful *Effects*, at a moſt vaſt *diſtance*: So alſo, the *glorious Body* of the *Mother of Jeſus*, is *dignified* with a Super-excellent *Tranſparency*, by reaſon of her nearneſs in *Seat*, and *glory*, to the infinitely *luminous Eſſence* of God; and is ſo admirably *refined* and perſpicuous, that it is moſt eaſly penetrative of, and compaſſible with, the hardeſt, thickeſt, and moſt impermeable ſubſtances. And as the *Sun* is the *quickeſt* of all bodies, in its *Motion*; and moſt active and *Vigorous*, in its operations; becauſe that vaſt body *runneth* about the greateſt *circle* of the World, in twenty four hours; and betwixt the Southern and Northern Tropicks, twice each year; and darteth its beames

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in a *moment* over half the World, and thro' the thineſt chinks thereof; and by its *approach* to us, *giveth* Life, Vigor and fruitfulneſs, to all *Vegetable* Creatures: So alſo the *ſacred body* of the *Mother of Jeſus*, is endowed, with a *Super-ſeraphical* activity, whereby ſhe can *render* herſelf preſent, in a moment, to all her *Devotes*, *Vieweth* all their actions, words, and concerns; and can *aid* them, at what ever diſtance, at all times; *what ever* their Calamities and Miſeries be. All theſe *Super-eminent Priviledges* of the *immaculate Body* of holy *Mary*, do ſhew her ſingular Excellency, in all the *Prerogatives* of glorifyed bodies, incomparably *above*, what ever can be conceived in all other *pure Creatures*, however dear to God.

79. *Conſid.* 3. That the *Atcheivement* of this illuſtrious *Crown* of the *Mother of Jeſus*, is a *Creſt of twelve ſtars*; the choyceſt, for *Magnitude*, *Splendour* and *Operation*; which do wonderfully amplify the *Super-eminent* Glory of *Her Coronation*; and the unexpreſſibleneſs of the Joy of her *Devotes*, in their having ſo glorious a *Patroneſs*. For beſides the richneſs of *Her* Crown, in *Subſtance*, of the choiceſt *Gold*, *Pearls*, *ſtars* and *Flowers*; in *figure*, of the rareſt *contrivement*, by the Wiſdom, Skill and induſtry of Wiſdom its ſelf; in *Quality*, of the greateſt *Variety*, *invention* and *brightneſs*, ſuitable to the Love, Art and Splendor of her *Son Jeſus*, the light, Wiſdom and vertue of the *Divinity*: The Addition of thoſe moſt replendant *ſtars* to her *Imperial* and Triumphant

Crown,

Crown, do, in ſome degree ſpeak her *Eminent Glory*; the Amplitude whereof is not expreſſible by any tongue or pen of *Man*, or to be comprehended by the higheſt of the *Seraphims*. All that we are able, to *apprehend*, or *ſay* of this her Glory, is, 1. *That* her *Crown* ſignifieth her Illuſtrious *Conqueſts*, over all the Concupiſcences of the World, fleſh and the Devil. 2. The *Gold* argueth her ſublime *Contemplation*, and *Super-ſeraphick Love*, towards her Immortal Spouſe. 3. The *Jewels* are an *Emblem* of her excellent *Vertues*. 4. The *Flowers* are an *Image* of the delicious *fragrancy* of her Innocency, Chaſtity and Incorruptibility. 5. And the *twelve ſtars*, are a *Character* of the vaſt *Collection* of Supernatural Gifts, Fruits and Beatitudes; plentifully poured into her, by the liberal hand of *Jeſus*. So that, as in deſcribing this *Crown*, nothing is omitted, which *Nature*, *Art*, and a moſt paſſionate *Love*, could contribute, to render it moſt illuſtrious and ſurpriſing: So, no *perfection*, either Moral, Theological, or Beatifical, was wanting in the *Mother* of Jeſus; Nor was there any *degree*, *circumſtance*, or *accompliſhment* of Glory, *actual*, or *Poſſible*, to be invented, or beſtowed upon any pure Creature; in what ſo ever Condition of *natural* endowments, gifts of *Grace*, or *meritorious* Life; which was not moſt plentifully beſtowed upon this divine Creature, on the day of her glorious *Inauguration* to be *Queen of the Sublunary*, and *Superlunary* World. there were three *Tyars* of *Stars* in this her Illuſtri-

ous

ous *Creſt*; in each, there were *four Stars* of the greateſt Magnitude, Splendour and Influence; The *Loweſt*, was ſet with *four*, ſignifying her *Super-eminent Purity*, *Poverty*, *Obedience* and *Humility*; On the *Second*, were *four* other, repreſenting her *Super-excellent Contemplation*, *Love*, *Conformity* and *Extaſy*; The *higheſt* was beautifyed with other *four*, expreſſing her *Superſeraphical Light of Glory*, and *beatifical Viſion*, her *conſummated Charity and perfect fruition*, her *ſecure poſſeſſion of God and his reciprocal Embracements*, and her *Exaltation above all the Quires of the Elect*, and *Seſſion*, next to the *Throne of God*, in place, Love & Happineſs.

80. Affect. *O how beautiful are thy Steps*; Thou moſt glorious Daughter of the King of Glory! *Thy Neek is comely* as Ivory; *the treſſeſs of thy hair*, *like the* Diadems of Princes, *fillitted with threds of* Purple and Gold; *Thy Throne of* Saphirs *and* Rubies; *the* Moon, *thy* footſtool; *the* Sun, *thy* Mantle; *thy Crown of* Gold *and precious* ſtones, *enamel'd with* flowers *and* Stars, *and Armies of Angels are thy* Guards *and* Attendants. *Truly moſt glorious art thou*, O Divine Mo[illegible] of Jeſus! *Ah, how hath my Soul languiſhed* [illegible] *have a glimps of thy Glorious State*? But ala[illegible] *O Mother of mercies, a heavy weight of ſin an[illegible]arnal paſſions, ſtill clogg the Wings of my Affections, draw me down towards Creatures, and ſtop me in my flight towards heaven, where I might ſee thee, in all thy Glory!* Oh, *ſend a* Seraphim, *with a* coal *from the* Altar *of Divine* Love, *wherewith to cleanſe my lips*;

to

to enflame my heart with heavenly desires, and to unglue my concupiscences from the charms of sensuality; then shall my Soul soar up aloft, by Faith *in what ever God hath revealed to me, by his Governours of the Church; by* Hope *of his Mercies, thro' the Helps of the Sacraments, and the Efficacy of Christs passion; by* Charity, *conforming my Love and Obedience to Gods Commandements, thro' his infinite Amiableness; and by* Contemplation, *of the Eminent Perfections of God, of the Glory of the Saints, of the Exuberant merits of Christs precious blood, of the wretchedness of sinners, and of the Miserable State of the Reproved. Then shall I begin to relish the* sweetness *of my Christian Vocation, the* delights *of the Saints, and the* Super-Eminent Glory, Power, and Majesty *of the* Mother *of* JESUS.

81. *Resol.* O Divine *Mother of Jesus*, and my most gracious Patroness, I do firmly purpose, thro' the *Grace* and *Mercy* of God, and thy *Mediation* and *Protection*, to Contemplate, admire and Imitate thy *excellent* Vertues and will *thereby* endeavour to repair, the *Image and likeness of God* in my Soul, drawn in my Creation and regeneration, but defaced by my manifold sins, and yeeldings to sensuality; for I know *Jesus* ever *stands* at the door of my heart, *Knocks* often, *calls* on me frequently, *Sues* for admittance, that he may *free me, heal me, and save me.* And thou *O Mother of Mercy*, doest still *Solicite* my cause, at the *Throne* of thy *Sons bounty*; are *Watchful* over my Motions, and doest *compassion* my failings,

Help, quicken, triumph over my weak desires; Take me into the *Arms* of thy pitty; suffer not the *Image of Jesus* to be *razed* forth my Spirit, permit me not to *perish*, since I have been *redeemed*, *washed*, and *watred* with the *Blood of Jesus*, taken forth of the *center* of thy *amorous Heart*.

The Praise.

82. *Hail Mary*: n. 22.

Psal. 95.

83. MAy the *Quires* of Angels and of all the Saints sing a *Song of Joy* to the *Mother of Jesus*: a song of *Prays* to the *Queen* of Glory.

All the Elect may sing a *new Cantique* to the *name of MARY*: a Psalm of *magnificence*, on the *day* of her *Coronation*.

Rejoyce all Nations, and declare the greatness of her *Glory*: her *power* over all People.

In Glory and splendour, is the *Mother of Jesus* exalted: she is *Seated* above the *Quires* of Angels.

Every *precious stone*, and the *flowers* of the field, are her Ornament: the *Sun* and *Stars* are her *Crown and Mantle*.

Glory be to *Jesus*: n. 14.

The Hymne.

84. *COme ye bright Quires of Angels; Sing*
Glories to th' Mother of Heaven's King:
Perfumes, sweet Herbs and Fragrant Flowers,
Gathred on Heavens hills, strew down in showers.
Come ye Officious Stars, shine bright, and meet;
Become a Pavement to this your Queens feet:
Moon, be her foot-stool; Sun, her Vest;
Her Throne, and Crown, with Gemmes be drest.

Let

Let all that's glorious, rich and bright,
Shine on her brow, and grow in Light:
Then let the Seraphs chirp, and ſing
Live Mary, *Mother of our King,*
Glory to Jeſus: n. 23.

℣. WIth glory and Honor, *thou haſt crowned the Mother of* JESUS.

℟. *Thou haſt placed her, O* Lord, *above all thy Works.*

Let us pray.

GRant we beſeech Thee, our Lord, *that the gracious interceſſion of the ever bleſſed and Glorious Virgin, Mother of thy* Son JESUS, *exalted above all the* Quires *of Angels, and* Crowned *with eternal happineſs, may at all times protect, and ſecure us, and ſafely conduct us, unto Life everlaſting; Thro'* JESUS *Chriſt, thy Son, our Lord,* Amen.

The Covenant.

85. O Sacred Virgin, *MARY; Mother* of God, *Queen* of Angels, *Empreſs* of the Saints, *Refuge* of ſinners, and my ſpecial *Patroneſs* and *Advocate:* unto thy Cuſtody, I *commit* and *recommend, my ſelf,* with all the Powers, Paſſions and Motions of my Body and Mind; and all *living* and dead; but eſpecially thoſe, whom I would, or ſhould pray for; Humbly intreating *Thee,* thro' all thy *Mercies* and *Merits,* thy *Priviledges* and *Power,* and by what ever is *deareſt* unto Thee, that *we* may be admitted to be thy *children, ſervants,* and *devotes;* that we may be protected, directed, aſſiſted and comforted by *Thee;* and that by *thee,* we may be

preſented to God the *Father*, who created us; to God thy *Son*, who redeemed us; to God the *holy Ghoſt*, who ſanctified us; To the Holy *Trinity*, *One God*, to be *purifyed* from all ſtain and guilt of ſin, to be *enlightned* with the knowledge of all neceſſary Truths, and to be *inflamed* with the Love of heavenly things, and a deteſtation of all things, contrary to the divine Will. Offer, I beſeech thee, *O Sacred Virgin*, our *Hearts*, up at the Throne of the Eternal God, on the Altar of divine Love, amids the lights, flames, and perfumes of the Angels and Saints, 1. That *prevented* with the mercies & bleſſings of God the *Father*, 2. *cleanſed* in the bleeding wounds of my Saviour *Jeſus*, 3. *inflamed* in the Sacred furnace of divine Love, of the *Holy Ghoſt*, 4. *adorned* with the greens, flowers, and fruits of the divine Morals of *JESUS*, and his Saints; 5. *Guarded* by the Troops of glorious *Angels*, 6. *ſtrengthened* by the interceſſion of the *Saints*. 7. *ayded* by the merits of the *Juſt*; and 8. *Supported* by the mediation of my Saviour *Jeſus*: They may be a *Well-pleaſing Sacrifice* to God; 1. By *Faith*, becauſe he is infinitely Credible; 2. By *Hope*, becauſe he is infinitely deſirable; 3. By *Love*, becauſe he is infinitely amiable; 4. By *Congratulation*, becauſe he is infinitely glorious; 5. By *Worſhip*, becauſe he is infinitely adorable; 6. By *Thanksgiving*, becauſe he is infinitely Bountyfull; 7. By *Suffrage*, becauſe he is infinitely merciful; 8. By *Impetration*, becauſe he is infinite Liberal; and 9. By a *perfect Memory* of all paſt favours; a clear underſtanding

of

of all Chriſtian Duties, and a *ſteady affection* towards all heavenly things; That we may *for ever* honour, Love, and obey Thee.

The Bleſſing.

THro' the Mediation of the moſt glorious Virgin, Mother of JESUS, *may God, the* Father, ✠ Son, and holy Ghoſt, *bleſs, and keep us, Now, and for ever more,* Amen.

FINIS.

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